

**HANSEL AND GRETEL**  
**or**  
**The crumbs don't fall far from the loaf**

A holiday panto  
by  
David Jacklin

3<sup>rd</sup> Draught  
(Completed February 19, 2018)

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## CHARACTERS

**Vidow Vinkle**, mother of Hansel and Gretel, the Dame

**Gretel Vinkle**, a bright young girl

**Hansel Vinkle**, not so much

**Baron Vasteland**, an Evil Baron and landlord and Royal Treasurer

**Potz**, Lady Malevola's henchman

**Panz**, Lady Malevola's henchman

**Adalicia Biermann**, the barmaid in Schplitzenpantz, the Ingenue

**Crown Prince Rupert**, the Principal Boy

**Lady Malevola**, A beautiful woman with evil designs

**Villagers** of the Bavarian village of Schplitzenpantz

**A bear** (or a lion or a tiger or a badger)

**Valiant**, Prince Rupert's horse

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## SETTING

Somewhere in Bavaria

Fall – 1431

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## SCENES

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### Act I

Scene 1 - The Village of Schplitzenpantz

Scene 2 - Inside the Vinkle hovel

Scene 3- Outside the Vinkle hovel

Scene 4- Deep in the Dark Forest

Scene 5 - A Village Inn

Scene 6 - Deeper in the Dark Forest

Scene 7 - A clearing in the Dark Forest

### Act II

Scene1 - The Village of Splitzenpantz

Scene 2 - Inside The Gingerbread House

Scene 3 - Deep in the Dark Forest

Scene 4 - Inside the Gingerbread House

Scene 5 - A clearing near the cottage of the Witch

Scene 6 - Inside the Gingerbread House

Scene 7 - The Village of Schplitzenpantz

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## SONGS

### ACT I

**It's a Grimm Old Time In The Forest**, The Villagers, Hansel, Gretel

**Roll Up!**, Potz, Panz, Lady Malevola

**Boot Soup**, Hansel, Gretel

**Boot Soup 1<sup>st</sup> reprise**, Hansel, Gretel

**Boot Soup 2<sup>nd</sup> reprise**, Hansel, Gretel

**Sing A Song**, Villagers, Adalicia

**Oh, Children, Come Out**, Lady Malevola

### ACT II

**It's Still a Grimm Old Time In The Forest**, The Villagers

**I'm In Love**, Rupert, Adalicia

**Roll Up!**, reprise, Potz, Panz, Hansel, Gretel

**If You See A Scary Baddy**, Vidow, Baron, Rupert, Adalicia

**This Is The End**, All

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# HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act I

Scene 1 - The Village of Schplitzenpantz

*(VILLAGERS are crowding in the market; a sign reads:  
SCHPLITZENPANTZ Harvest Fair, 1341. The fall harvest  
is on display: about four cabbages and two turnips.)*

*(MUSIC: It's a Grimm Old Time In The Forest)*

VILLAGERS: WELKOMMEN, ALLES JUNGEN  
UND AUCH DEM MADSCHEN, ZU!  
WELKOMMEN, TO DER HERREN  
UND TO DEM FRAUEN, TOO.  
'VAY OUT HERE IN ZE FOREST,  
VE SCRAPE AND SCROUNGE FOR FOOD.  
VE'RE STARVING IN ZIS FOREST!  
FORGIVE US IF VE'RE RUDE.

IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN ZE FOREST.  
IT'S A FIGHT JUST TO STAY ALIVE!  
IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN ZE FOREST  
UND VE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!

LIFE IS JUST SO STRESSFUL.  
VE NEED A HOLIDAY!  
A FRIENDLY LITTLE FROLIC,  
ZE GOOD OLD GERMAN VAY.

VE NEED A LITTLE RESPITE  
FROM LIFE IN SCHPLITZENPANTZ.  
SO FIRST VE'LL VISIT POLAND,  
UND ZEN VE'LL VISIT FRANCE!

IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN ZE FOREST.  
IT'S A FIGHT JUST TO STAY ALIVE!  
IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN ZE FOREST  
UND VE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!

HANSEL: I'M HANSEL!

GRETEL: I'M GRETEL!

BOTH: UND VE LIVE IN SCHPLITZENPANTZ!  
WE'D BE HAPPY EVER AFTER,  
BUT VE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE.

GRETEL: I'M GRETEL!

HANSEL: I'M HANSEL!

BOTH: UND HERE IN SCHPLITZENPANTZ,  
VE HAVE NO FOOD FUR EATIN',  
BUT VE ALL HAVE TIME TO DANCE!

*(Dance interlude: a Bavarian clapping, stomping dance.)*

ALL: IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN ZE FOREST.  
IT'S A FIGHT JUST TO STAY ALIVE!  
IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN ZE FOREST  
UND VE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!  
IT'S SO MEDIEVAL!  
UND VE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!

*(VIDOW VINKLE steps out and speaks to the audience.)*

VIDOW: Hello, children! I'm Vidow Vinkle. Can you say zat? ... No, not Vinkle! Vinkle! ... No, Vinkle! ... I sink you've got ze ears full of ze sauerkraut. I've been a vidow since mein poor husband died in childbirss – don't ask. I'm a poor abandoned vidow. (*Aww.*) I said, I'm a poor abandoned vidow. (*Aww!*) I'm more abandoned zan zat! (*AWWW!*) All right, I'm not zat abandoned. Now, venever I say "Hello, children!", I vant you all to shout "Hello, vidow!" Let's practice. Hello, children! (*Wait for reaction.*) Vat, did you all leave? Ve try again. Hello, children! (*Wait for reaction.*) It's like meat draw day at ze Legion. So! Here ve are at ze Harvesht Feshtival, fourteen sirty-vun! Can you believe, fourteen sirty-vun already! Time just flies ven you don't have ze plague. You can see ze wonderful vegetables ve've grown here in Schplitzenpantz zis year – both of zem. It's been a bad year for vegetables in Bavaria! Actually zis story is from Russia, but do you know how hard it is to find a rhyme for Petropavlovsk?

A VILLAGER: Bavaria only rhymes with hysteria.

ANOTHER VILLAGER: And malaria.

VIDOW: Vell, zat's two. Ve have so much problems in Bavaria. Ze economy is in ze dumper! Ze old king believed in trickle down economics. Ve're still

waiting for ze trickle. Ve have no money; ve have no food. I mean, ve live is ze middle of a bleedin' forest – how much food can you grow zere?

*(Enter HANSEL and GRETEL)*

Und zees are my two children: Hansel und Gretel.

GRETEL: Guten tag, mutter!

VIDOW: Gretel is schmart as a vip! I don't know how schmart a vip is, but she's at least as schmart as one.

HANSEL: Guten tag, vatter!

VIDOW: Hansel, not so much. I am your mutti, Hansel; not your vatti.

HANSEL: Zat's a matter of opinion.

VIDOW: If my children vere flowers, my Gretel would be a budding genius; my Hansel, a bloomin' idiot. But I digress. Vat have you been doing, children?

GRETEL: Ve have been picking berries. Ve have got a blueberry und a raspberry und a schtrawberry.

HANSEL: Und I got a French beret. *(Putting on a beret.)* I are very funny, are I not?

VIDOW: You *am* very funny, Hansel. Vere's your grammar?

HANSEL: Vis my gramper?

VIDOW: *(To Audience.)* People often mistake his good nature for schtupidity. Und, I can see zere point. You didn't venture into ze forest, did you, children?

GRETEL: Oh, no, mutti. You have often told us of ze dangers.

VIDOW: Ja, zere are lions und tigers und Republicans out zere.

HANSEL: Ze vorld is a schcary place, vatti.

VIDOW: Mutti, Hansel!

HANSEL: I sink I know vat I am saying.

*(The BARON approaches the trio.)*

BARON: Vidow Vinkle!

VIDOW: *(To audience.)* Oh, it's ze evil Baron Vasteland! He's our landlord und, like all landlords, he's vicious und cruel und never comes to fix ze toilet ven it breaks. All ze same, he asks a lot for ze rent. Last veek, he asked on Monday, Tuesday, Vednesday, Ssursday ... Look at him. You may hiss.

BARON: Vidow Vinkle!

VIDOW: Not Vinkle! Vinkle!

BARON: Sorry. You are behind in the rent on your hovel.

VIDOW: I know I've got a little behind.

BARON: Not from where I'm standing.

VIDOW: But, can't you overlook my arrears?

BARON: I can't do anything else, but you've still got to pay up!

VIDOW: Oh, come on!

BARON: If I don't see your arrears within the week ...

VIDOW: Cheeky devil.

BARON: I'll seize your chattels.

VIDOW: Ooh, I like zat!

BARON: I'll throw you out of your hovel.

VIDOW: Oh, I don't like zat.

BARON: And I'll sell your children into indentured servitude!

VIDOW: Oh, no!

HANSEL: *(Stepping up to the BARON.)* You can't do that!

BARON: And why not?

HANSEL: I don't have dentures. I've got all my own teess.

GRETEL: You're really not helping, Hansel.

BARON: Now, listen to me, Vidow Vinkle ...

THE VINKLES: Not Vinkle! Vinkle!

BARON: Sorry! You've got to the end of the week.

HANSEL: Vich day is zat exactly? Sometimes, calendars have Monday as ze first day of ze week and, sometimes, Sunday. It's very confusing.

BARON: Be honest, Vidow, would it be such a great loss if we sold him?

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*(The BARON exits.)*

VIDOW: Oh, vat shall ve do? Ve'll be out of hovel und home.

HANSEL: I know, vatti. Let's sing a song! *(To audience.)* How about it? Do you want to sing a song? *(The children will shout "Yes!")*

VIDOW: No, ve're not singing a song. You can't sing for your supper ven zere is no supper. All I've found is zeze old potatoes.

GRETEL: Oh, zey are full of eyes.

HANSEL: Zat's good! Zey will see us srough ze veek!

*(VIDOW exits. HANSEL and GRETEL remain, along with the VILLAGERS.)*

POTZ: This way! Come on, then. Watch yourself! This way.

*(POTZ and PANZ enter pushing a sweets-laden cart.)*

PANZ: Look out, now. Make room! Don't crowd now, don't crowd. *(No one is. He stops and sniffs.)* Herr Potz!

POTZ: Yes, Herr Panz?

PANZ: What is that smell?

POTZ: It wasn't me!

PANZ: It wasn't me!

*(They sniff again.)*

BOTH: Oh! Children!

POTZ: Children are so ugly!

PANZ: Especially that one, right there! *(Pointing directly down off front of stage.)*

POTZ: That's not a child, Herr Panz.

PANZ: It's not?

POTZ: No, it's your reflection in the river.

PANZ: Let's get the show on the road, then. Here we go, Herr Potz!

POTZ: Here we go, Herr Panz!

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*(Music: Roll Up! They bang pots together in rhythm.)*

BOTH: ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!  
COME AND SEE WHAT WE OFFER TODAY!  
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!  
COME AND TASTE OUR DELICIOUS DISPLAY!  
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!  
CAKES AND COOKIES AND SWEET CANDIES, TOO!  
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!  
SEE WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU!

PANZ: MY FRIEND, HERR POTZ ...

POTZ: AND MY FRIEND, HERR PANZ ...

BOTH: WILL SHOW YOU THE TASTIEST  
TREATS IN THE LAND!  
WE HAVE SCRUMPTIOUS DELIGHTS THAT WILL  
MELT IN YOUR HAND!  
SO GOOD THEY SHOULD HAVE  
A BIG BRASS BAND!

POTZ: Kings and Queens, Princes and Princesses, Dukes and Duchesses, Lords  
and Ladies and the Mayor of *(Insert name of local small town)*  
him~~(her)~~self all swear by the quality of Lady Malevola's sweets.

PANZ: You lucky children get to taste Lady Malevola's sweeties, yourself!

POTZ: She's got the most scrumptious sweeties in the forest.

BOTH: Ladies und gentlemen, damen und herren, Fricken und Fracken, put your hands together and give it up for the Lady Malevola!

*(MALEVOLA enters. She is a beautiful woman in a rich costume, including a cape.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: COME UP, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND TASTE OF MY WARES  
I'VE THE BEST SWEETIES YOU'LL FIND ANYWHERE  
COME UP, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND SAMPLE MY TREATS  
COOKIES AND CANDIES AND SUCH TEMPTING SWEETS,

ALL THREE: MY FRIEND, HERR POTZ AND MY FRIEND, HERR PANZ  
WILL SHOW YOU THE TASTIEST TREATS IN THE LAND!

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WE HAVE SCRUMPTIOUS DELIGHTS THAT WILL  
MELT IN YOUR HAND!  
SO GOOD THEY SHOULD HAVE  
A BIG BRASS BAND!

COOKIES AND CANDIES AND GUMDROPS AND DANDIES  
AND LOLLIPOPS, ALL FOR FREE!

*(HANSEL comes up to the wagon.)*

PANZ: Would you like a free lollipop?

HANSEL: Vast vas zat vord again?

POTZ: Lollipop?

HANSEL: No, ze ozzer vun.

PANZ: Free?

HANSEL: Zat's ze vun!

POTZ: Here you are, my boy. A free lollipop.

HANSEL: Can I have vun for my sister?

PANZ: What is her name?

HANSEL: Gretel.

PANZ: Here you are.

HANSEL: Und for my ozzet sister?

POTZ: What's her name?

HANSEL: Re-Gretel.

POTZ: Here you go.

HANSEL: Und vun for my second cousin twice removed?

PANZ: That's pretty much a kissing cousin, isn't it?

HANSEL: Vell, I ask him, but I don't think you're his type.

GRETEL: *(Joining him.)* Vat are you doing, Hansel?

HANSEL: Look, Gretel. Zey are giving away free lollipops to all ze children!

GRETEL: Free lollipops! To all ze children? But who are zey?

HANSEL: Zey are strangers to me!

GRETEL: Free candy! From strangers! Vat could be wrong vis zat?

LADY MALEVOLA: Here you are, my dear. Take two. You must be this young fellow's sister. Are you Gretel or Re-gretel?

GRETEL: You'll have to ask our muzzer.

*(ADALICIA comes to them and pulls GRETEL back.)*

ADALICIA: Hansel! Gretel! Come away from there! What are you doing with these children?

LADY MALEVOLA: What's it to you? Dear.

ADALICIA: It seems to be a little suspicious, if you ask me.

LADY MALEVOLA: Well, as it happens, no one asked you. Dear.

ADALICIA: And no one asked you to come here and hand these out.

LADY MALEVOLA: Why not? It's a free country.

ADALICIA: No, it's not. It's fifteenth century Germany. I think it's a little suspicious that you're trying entice the children like this.

LADY MALEVOLA: Well, we'll have to do something about that. Potz! Panz! Do something about that.

*(POTZ and PANZ slowly back ADELICIA into a corner.)*

POTZ/PANZ: We hate like heck to see you go,  
We love to have you here.  
But if you know what's good for you,  
You'd better disa- ... SCRAM!

ADALICIA: Hansel! Gretel! Come with me! Now!

*(The three exit. POTZ and PANZ high five each other.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: Ha, ha, ha! We'll have children hanging from the rafters! Ha, ha, ha! And, I won't forget those two, either. Hansel – and Re-Gretel!

*(The trio laugh evilly, then stop, realize the lights are still up, laugh again, stop, then simply walk away.)*

**END OF SCENE**

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act I

Scene 2 - Inside the house of Hansel & Gretel

*(The Vinkle hovel. VIDOW VINKLE stirs a large pot.)*

VIDOW: Hello, children!... Velcome to our hovel. Some people mistake zis for a shack, but it's definitely a hovel. Ve've got all modern conveniences here: a door, a vindow, a floor. Ve even have a roof over our heads but, yesterday, I found termites in ze eaves, veering hard hats.

I have hed a hard life. I ran away from home ven I vas very young und my parents never found me. In fact, zey never looked. I vorked my vay srough college cutting toenails for twenty-five cents. And zere's not much money cutting toenails for twenty-five cents. Zen I met my husband, Villie. Villie Vinkle. He vas so schmall, I called him Vee Villie Vinkle, but zat's anozzer shtory. Und zen he died in childbirss – don't ask – leaving me vis two children who eat cereal vis a dust-pan.

Ve've been here in zis hovel srough sick und sin – I mean, thick and thin. Ve survived ze Big Freeze of '14. Ze Not-Quite-So-Big-But-Still-Blummin'-Chilly Freeze of '17; Hurricane Barry in '24: zat wasn't veazzer, just a very flatulent neighbour.

All in our little hovel, here. It's been so hard. I try to keep ze place nice, but have you ever lived in a shtyrofoam house in ze middle of a seatre? It's a nightmare!

Und now, ze evil Baron Vasteland is going to srow us out of our hovel! I don't know vat I shall do! *(Crying.)* Ah, ha, ha – ah, ha, ha!

*(VIDOW cries, using squirting bulbs to shoot tears at audience. HANSEL and GRETEL enter.)*

GRETEL: Mutti, ve have had nossing to eat today. Is zere anyssing left to eat?

HANSEL: Ja, ve are scharving!

GRETEL: Literally.

VIDOW: I've just been to ze market. Everything's so expensive. Grapes have gone up nearly two dollars a bottle! Eggs keep going up. Ze hens don't like zat. I could only afford to buy six eggs.

HANSEL: Vell, let's eat zem in front of ze mirror.

VIDOW: Vy?

HANSEL: Zen ve'll have a whole dozen!

GRETEL: Hansel, you've decided to opt out of ze Renaissance, haven't you?

HANSEL: Vat's a Renaissance?

VIDOW: Children, I have been cooking up something special for your lunch. It's a real treat – something ve have never had before!

GRETEL: Is it viener schnitzel?

VIDOW: No, ve don't have any vieners.

GRETEL: Is it hossenpfeffer?

VIDOW: No, ve don't have any hossens.

HANSEL: Is it schpaghetti?

VIDOW: Vat's schpaghetti?

HANSEL: Long, schlurpy noodles in tomato sauce.

VIDOW: No, Marco Polo hasn't brought noodles back from China yet.

GRETEL: Zen, vat is it, mutti?

VIDOW: *(Ladling a wet boot out of the pot.)* Boot soup!

HANSEL/GRETEL: Boot soup! Delicious!

*(Music: Boot Soup.)*

BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!  
BOOT SOUP IS YUMMY UND BOOT SOUP IS GRAND.  
UND OUR DEAR MUMMY MAKES ZE BEST IN ZE LAND!  
BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!

VIDOW: Vait! Vait! Schtop! Schotp ze music!

*(The music stops.)*

Ve don't have time for ze singing. Und some of us don't have ze talent for ze singing – but I'm not saying who.

HANSEL/GRETEL: But ve vant to sing ze song!

VIDOW: Abscholutely not. Ve've got vay too much plot to get to schtop for songs. Ve haven't even got to ze part vere ze evil Baron Vasteland comes to take you away into ze Dark Forest.

GRETEL: Ze evil Baron Vasteland comes to take us away into ze Dark Forest?

VIDOW: Ja, vat did I just say?

HANSEL: “Ze evil Baron Vasteland comes to take you away into ze Dark Forest.”

GRETEL: How do you know he's going to do zat?

VIDOW: I read ze shcript. Didn't you?

*(Ominous music. The BARON enters, skulking.)*

In fact, if I know my musical motifs, zat's him now. *(To the audience.)*  
You may boo, if you like.

BARON: *(Responding to audience boos.)* Music to my ears. Vidow Vinkle!

THE VINKLES: Not Vinkle! Vinkle!

BARON: Sorry. It's the end of the week – and I've not laid eyes on your arrears.

VIDOW: Vell, dinner and a show might change zat.

BARON: You owe me six months back rent, Vidow.

VIDOW: You can't srow me out. We've got sqvatter's rights.

BARON: Looks more like rickets to me.

VIDOW: Let's make a deal. If you forget half ze rent, I'll forget ze ozzer half.

BARON: Let's see some cash, Vidow.

VIDOW: I haven't got a penny. I'm flat busted. *(She stops and stares at someone in the audience.)* Ve don't all share your filssy mind, you know. I'm just a poor abandoned vidow! *(Aww!)* A little more abandonment, please. *(AWWW!)* Perfect.

BARON: You may be an abandoned widow, but I'm an evil landlord. *(Boo!)* I'm more evil than that! *(BOO!)* Perfect. So! I am going to seize all you have.

THE VINKLES: Oh!

BARON: Throw you out into the cold!

THE VINKLES: Oh!

BARON: But first, I'm going to take your children away!

VIDOW: *(To HANSEL and GRETEL.)* Told you.

HANSEL/GRETEL: Oh!

VIDOW: Vy? Vy?

BARON: Because the show would only be twenty minutes long if I didn't.

GRETEL: I sought it vas because you vere a deschpicable human being vis no iota of kindness or charity vissin your vizeden, blackened heart.

BARON: That, too. So, shall we?

VIDOW: *(On her knees.)* No! No! You can't! You can't tear my dear children from my bosom! I beg you! I beseech you! I ...

HANSEL: It's all right, vatti. Ve don't mind.

VIDOW: Shut up, zis is my big dramatic shcene. Vere vas I? I beg you! I beseech you! I ... somessing else scharting vis "B" you!

BARON: Your pleas fall upon deaf ears, Vidow.

HANSEL: Have you been to an ear doctor?

BARON: Whatever you're taking to keep you stupid – it's working. I shall take these children into the Dark Forest and sell them into indentured servitude.

HANSEL: I told you, I don't have dentures!

BARON: I may have to give *that* one away. Right! Line up, alphabetically by height.

VIDOW: Vait! It's a long journey srough ze Dark Forest. Let me give zem something to eat on ze vay.

BARON: Very well. Be quick!

VIDOW: Come, children! A nice bowl of boot soup for each of you!

HANSEL/GRETEL: Boot soup! Delicious!

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(*Music: Boot Soup.*)

BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!

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BOOT SOUP IS YUMMY UND BOOT SOUP IS GRAND.  
UND OUR DEAR MUMMY MAKES ZE BEST IN ZE LAND!  
BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!

BARON: Stop it! Stop the music! (*The music stops.*) Give them a loaf of bread.

VIDOW: All ze bread ve have is zis nasty, dried up old loaf zat's been here since ze first dress rehearsal. Here you are, Hansel. You take zis and be careful of it. You may have to *crumble it up* to eat it, but be sure you don't *drop ze crumbs on ze pass along ze vay*.

HANSEL: Don't worry, vatti. I von't drop a single crumb.

VIDOW: (*To audience.*) Like talking to a can of paint.

GRETEL: Don't worry, mutti. I heard every word you said.

VIDOW: Oh, zat's my schmart girl!

BARON: All right. Let's go. And: *links, rechts, links, rechts ...*

VIDOW: Goodbye, children! Don't forget to write!

(*Music: Boot Soup. They exit the hovel and the scene changes to:*)

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act I

Scene 3 - Outside the hovel of the Vinkles

BARON: *(As they march on.) Ein, svei, drei, vier! Ein, svei, drei, vier!*

HANSEL/GRETEL: *(As they march.)* BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!  
BOOT SOUP IS YUMMY UND BOOT SOUP IS GRAND.

*(The BARON, HANSEL and GRETEL exit.)*

BARON: *(Off.)* Stop that! I said stop it! I hate singing!

VIDOW: *(To audience.)* Zey grow up so qvickly und zen, vun day, zey leave you. But remember: no matter how poor you are, no matter how lonely, no matter how dejected, no matter how ugly, zere's always somevun vorse off zan you. *(Pointing.)* Except in your case. I go inside und cry, now.

*(VIDOW exits. PRINCE RUPERT enters and knocks.)*

VIDOW: *(Off.)* Zere's nobody home!

RUPERT: Nobody home? Don't be ridiculous. You're here, aren't you?

VIDOW: *(Off.)* I ... oh, yes, so I am. *(VIDOW comes out of the hovel, takes a look at RUPERT and falls into his arms.)* Vere have you been all my life?

RUPERT: Well, for the first half of it, I wasn't even born.

VIDOW: Ven do ve get married?

RUPERT: I'm not getting married.

VIDOW: Really? 'Cause I am! Sink of ze vedding pictures! Zey'd cause a riot.

RUPERT: At least! Don't you think you're a little old for me?

VIDOW: Seems perfect from here.

RUPERT: I mean, I'm a lot younger than you.

VIDOW: Not in ze dark, dearie.

RUPERT: I am not marrying you!

VIDOW: Your loss, as my husband could tell you, if he hadn't died in childbirss.

RUPERT: Childbirss?

VIDOW: Don't ask. Push off. Don't hang about. You're making ze place look bad.

RUPERT: Look bad? It's a shack!

VIDOW: It may be a shack to you, but it's a hovel to us! *(She goes back inside. RUPERT knocks again. Off.)* Zere's nobody home!

RUPERT: But you're at home!

VIDOW: *(Off.)* Oh, so I am. *(She comes back out.)* Haven't ve met before?

RUPERT: Just a moment ago!

VIDOW: No. Doesn't ring a bell, but I must say you do! Ding, dong! So, vat do you say, handsome? Risk it for a biscuit?

RUPERT: I don't know what to say.

VIDOW: Say "ja" und I'll be yours forever.

RUPERT: What?

VIDOW: Don't say "vat". Say "ja". Ven can ve set a date?

RUPERT: A date? Can't we talk on Tinder for a while first?

VIDOW: You're tinder for my fire.

RUPERT: Look, all I did was fall off my horse on the way from the castle.

VIDOW: You are from ze kessle? Oh, I can see ze invite: "Princess-to-be Vinkle requests ze pleasure ..."

RUPERT: Of my company?

VIDOW: All right, let's say "company." Zen let's say "I do".

RUPERT: Princes can't just marry any old body – and I do mean, old body.

VIDOW: Zen, I'll just go inside und console myself vis a tequila. I'll make it a triple. Vun tequila, two tequila, sree tequila, floor! *(She goes in and slams the door. RUPERT knocks again. Off.)* Like I said, zere's no vun home!

*(RUPERT is left standing outside. ADALICIA enters.)*

ADALICIA: Oh, were you looking for Vidow Vinkle?

RUPERT: Vidow Vinkle?

ADALICIA: No, not Vinkle. Vinkle.

RUPERT: Sorry. I've lost my horse in the woods. His name is Valiant.

ADALICIA: Well, it's stew by now. We're pretty hungry around here. Who are you?

RUPERT: I am the Crown Prince Rupert.

ADALICIA: Prince Rupert! *(She curtsseys, then straightens up.)* You know, you're a lot shorter in person than you are on the coins.

RUPERT: So, I've been told. And your name, my girl?

ADALICIA: I am Adalicia, your highness.

RUPERT: A delicia what?

ADALICIA: Adalicia Biermann. Father was a beer-man. Mother drank schnapps.

RUPERT: And, what are you doing here at the edge of the wood, Adalicia?

ADALICIA: I am looking for my little friends, Hansel and Gretel.

RUPERT: Hansel and Gretel?

ADALICIA: Hansel and Gretel Vinkle.

RUPERT: Vinkle?

ADALICIA: That's right. Vinkle. They live here in this hovel.

RUPERT: I thought it was a shack.

ADALICIA: No, it's definitely a hovel. And, what do you do here, your highness?

RUPERT: I'm making a Royal Inquiry. The King and I went to inspect the Treasury.

ADALICIA: And?

RUPERT: And found it empty. Every chest of gold, every casket of jewels, every sock stuffed with pennies – gone!

ADALICIA: No!

RUPERT: Yes! The doors of the treasury were locked; the bars unbent; the windows sealed. It was as if it had disappeared by magic!

ADALICIA: No!

RUPERT: Yes!

ADALICIA: But, that means ...

RUPERT: The country is bankrupt!

ADALICIA: No!

RUPERT: Yes! Who could have done it?

ADALICIA: Who had the keys?

RUPERT: Our family's most faithful friend, the Baron Vasteland.

ADALICIA: Baron Vasteland! That nasty old ...

RUPERT: So ... !

ADALICIA: ... and so.

RUPERT: ... you see, it had to be magic of some kind. I am riding through the land to find a clue as to what happened. And, then I was in the deepest part of the Dark Forest and I fell off my horse.

ADALICIA: You fell off your horse.

RUPERT: And, I found my way here.

ADALICIA: You found your way here.

RUPERT: And met you.

ADALICIA: And met me.

*(They look moonie-eyed. VIDOW VINKLE enters again.)*

VIDOW: Are you schtill here? Knock, knock!

RUPERT: Who's there?

VIDOW: Hugo.

RUPERT: Hugo who?

VIDOW: Hugo go 'vay now. Schtop cluttering up my doorvay.

ADALICIA: Vidow Vinkle, I want to take Hansel and Gretel to the big town sock wash.

RUPERT: The sock wash?

ADALICIA: The biggest event of the year. We always finish the harvest festival with a community laundry day. Once a year, whether our clothes need it or not.

RUPERT: You're very forward thinking around here.

ADALICIA: Well, it's 1431. It's not the Middle Ages. So where are the children?

VIDOW: Oh, my dear, zey are gone!

ADALICIA: Gone?

VIDOW: Gone! Ze Evil Baron has taken zem to sell into indentured servitude.

ADALICIA: What! Why?

VIDOW: To pay off ze back rent on my hovel.

RUPERT: You must have huge arrears.

VIDOW: Cheeky!

ADALICIA: Where has the Evil Baron taken them?

VIDOW: Into ze dark forest.

*(Ominous music)*

ADALICIA: Oh, no! We must stop him.

RUPERT: He's well within his rights as an Evil Baron. Which Evil Baron is it?

VIDOW: Baron Vasteland.

RUPERT: Vasteland? Well, there you go. He's one of my father's most trusted advisors. He's in charge of security for the Royal Treasury.

ADALICIA: And where is the Royal Treasury now?

RUPERT: *(Beat.)* Oh, right.

ADALICIA: How do we find the children?

VIDOW: He took zem deep into ze Dark Forest. Nobody comes out of zere.

RUPERT: Maybe they'll meet my horse in there.

ADALICIA: Stu?

RUPERT: Valiant!

ADALICIA: Oh, right.

VIDOW: Und your horse can lead zem out of the forest?

RUPERT: Stranger things have happened.

VIDOW: Zat tangerine becoming president, for vun.

ADALICIA: Perhaps someone in town has some idea of where they may be. Let's go back to town. The washing festival is being held at the tavern this afternoon.

VIDOW: Is it vashing day already? It seems like just last monss I vashed.

*(They all exit.)*

**END OF SCENE**

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act I

Scene 4 - Deep in the Dark Forest

*(Enter the BARON, HANSEL and GRETEL. The children are very tired.)*

BARON: Come on, you two! You kids today just have no stamina. We've only come eight miles into the forest. Why, when I was a boy, we walked eleven miles just to get to the outhouse – uphill both ways. Usually running the first half.

GRETEL: Oh, no, you didn't.

BARON: Oh, yes, I did.

GRETEL: *(And audience.)* Oh, no, you didn't!

BARON: Oh, yes, I did.

GRETEL: *(And audience.)* Oh, no, you didn't!

BARON: Is there an echo around here?

HANSEL: We've never been zis far into ze Dark Forest, before.

BARON: *(Aside.)* That's what I was counting on. I'll leave them here where they must fall into my evil partner's hands. I love it when a plan comes together. *(To HANSEL and GRETEL.)* Now, I must go see a man about a dog – or a dog about a man. So, why don't you kids just sit down here and eat your lunch and I'll be right back.

HANSEL: Lunch? All ve've got left is zis crust of bread. *(He holds up an end crust of the loaf that VIDOW gave them.)*

BARON: What, you ate all your lunch already?

HANSEL: No, ve crumbled it all up and dropped it ...

GRETEL: *(Interrupting hastily.)* ... right down our gullets! Didn't ve, Hansel? *(Nodding vigourously.)*

HANSEL: *(Slowly nodding along with her.)* No! I dropped zem all along ze trail...

GRETEL: *(Interrupting hastily.)*...mix! Ze trail mix ve had – so ve could have bread and nuts togezzer.

HANSEL: *(To audience.)* I sink she is telling vun big vopper.

BARON: All right. Just sit here and wait – for me to return.

GRETEL: Vere is zis man vis his dog?

HANSEL: Or zis dog vis his man?

BARON: It's just a few miles west-north of the east-south corner of the forest.

HANSEL: *(To audience.)* Zumbody else is telling voppers.

GRETEL: Never mind, Hansel. Ve just sit here und vait for ze nice Baron to return.

BARON: Good. *(He starts to exit, but stops.)* And don't try to follow me, either.

GRETEL: Oh, no, ve von't.

BARON: Good. *(He starts to exit, but stops.)* And just stay right here.

GRETEL: Oh, ve vill.

BARON: Good. *(He starts to exit, but stops.)* And ...

HANSEL: Vill you just go, already?

*(The BARON exits. Night sounds comes in. HANSEL sits down and prepares to wait.)*

GRETEL: Vat are you doing? Let's go!

HANSEL: But, he's coming back vis a dog!

GRETEL: Mein lieber bruder, he's not coming back.

HANSEL: He's not?

GRETEL: No! He's leaving us in ze forest to die.

HANSEL: *(Pause.)* Zat's not very nice. *(Pause.)* Zat's downright evil!

GRETEL: Of course, it is. He's a landlord.

HANSEL: So, he's not coming back?

GRETEL: No!

HANSEL: *(Pause.)* Und ze dog?

GRETEL: Zere is no dog!

HANSEL: Zat's disappointing. All right, vere are ve going?

GRETEL: Home!

HANSEL: Vat's so great about home? Ve live in a hovel!

GRETEL: Ja, but as hovels go, it's a nice hovel.

HANSEL: So, vich vay is home?

GRETEL: Hansel, vy did you sink you have been dropping ze bread crumbs all srough ze forest?

HANSEL: Planting bread-fruit?

GRETEL: So ve can follow zem home!

HANSEL: Oh! Zat vas very clever of me!

GRETEL: Ja, ja, clever. Now ve must get going. Zese voods are filled vis lions und tigers und badgers.

HANSEL: Oh, my!

GRETEL: Now vere did you drop ze last crumbs?

HANSEL: Right over here. I mean, over here. No, here. No, it vas here.

GRETEL: You're sure?

HANSEL: Abscholutely. I remember zis tree. Or maybe it vas zat vun.

GRETEL: Ve go zis vay.

*(They exit. A few seconds pass, and they re-enter opposite.)*

I don't see any bread crumbs.

HANSEL: Maybe it vas zis vay.

*(They exit. A few seconds pass, and they re-enter opposite.)*

GRETEL: Zis vay!

*(They exit. A few seconds pass, and they re-enter opposite.)*

*(GRETEL turns and runs off the same way. HANSEL runs off the other way. After a second, they each appear opposite to where they entered.)*

*(They each turn around and run off the same way they just entered. After a moment, they both re-appear from the same side they just left from.)*

*GRETEL grabs HANSEL's hand and pulls him off in one direction. They re-appear opposite, with HANSEL pulling GRETEL.)*

*(As they stand there, a bear (or a lion or a tiger or a badger) comes on opposite. They scream and run off. The bear runs off the other way.)*

*(After a moment, HANSEL and GRETEL re-appear, running, followed by the bear (or lion or tiger or badger). All three run off the opposite way.)*

*(After a moment, the three re-enter, with the bear (or etc.) being chased by HANSEL and GRETEL. They run off.)*

*(After a moment, HANSEL and GRETEL come through, hand-in-hand, on tip-toe. They sneak through and off, hand-in-hand. After a moment, the bear comes on, sneaking on tip-toe. He exits after them.)*

*(After a moment, GRETEL sneaks through without*

*HANSEL. She exits. After a moment, the bear sneaks through and exits. After another moment, HANSEL sneaks through and exits.)*

*(After a moment, HANSEL sneaks through, with the bear, hand-in-paw. They exit. After a moment, GRETEL comes in the other way, with the bear, hand-in-paw. They exit.)*

*(HANSEL enters, backing up. The bear enters opposite, backing up. They get to centre, stop, circle each other and exit the other way without seeing each other.)*

*(GRETEL enters, backing up. The bear enters opposite, backing up. They get to centre, stop, circle each other and exit the other way without seeing each other.)*

*(HANSEL and GRETEL back on from opposite sides. They reach centre and back into each other, scream and run off.)*

*(The bear enters to centre. HANSEL and GRETEL enter from opposite side, backing in to centre. They back into the bear, turn, scream and run off. The bear shakes his paws in frustration and starts off, when he stops and sees the children in the audience. He rubs his paws and his tummy, then starts for the audience. HANSEL runs in.)*

HANSEL: Hey, Boo-boo! Your sister schtole pick-a-nick baskets!

*(The bear gets angry, forgets the audience and runs after HANSEL, who runs off. The bear stops, frustrated. GRETEL enters opposite.)*

GRETEL: Hey, Paddington! Your fazzer vas a pooh-bear!

*(The bear gets even more angry and runs after GRETEL, who runs off. The bear stops, frustrated. HANSEL and GRETEL re-appear, opposite to where they came off.)*

HANSEL/GRETEL: Hey, Schmokey! Your muzzer vas a panda!

*(The bear suddenly bursts out crying and runs away.)*

HANSEL: Ooh, hit a nerve zere.

GRETEL: Now, Hansel, vere are ze bread-crumbs? I can't find any.

HANSEL: I dropped zem along ze path all ze vay. Big, tasty bread crumbs lying there in plain sight. You can't miss zem. Vy, even a bird could see zem.

GRETEL: Oh, no!

HANSEL: Oh, yes!

GRETEL: Oh, NO!

HANSEL: Oh, yes! *(Beat.)* Oh, yes, vat?

GRETEL: Ze birds have eaten ze bread crumbs!

HANSEL: Oh, zat's nice, feeding ze birds.

GRETEL: Feeding zem our vay home!

HANSEL: Ooh, zat's not so good.

GRETEL: Hansel, is it possible you're adopted?

HANSEL: Nope, I am my fazzer's son!

GRETEL: Ja, you are. Now, ve are loscht in ze dark forest! Loscht und alone!

HANSEL: Oh, no! Vat should ve do? Maybe ve should sing a song! *(To audience.)* Children, do you want to sing a song? *(The audience hopefully responds "yes".)*

GRETEL: No! Ve're not singing a song. Zis vay!

*(They exit, hand-in-hand.)*

**END OF SCENE**

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act I

Scene 5 - A Village Inn

*(The VILLAGERS gather, with baskets of laundry.)*

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Happy Washing Day! Washing Day greetings, Hans. Happy Washing Day, Gertrude. Fröliche Waschen Tag, Hermann! Etc.

A VILLAGER: It's a perfect Washing Day! The weather is just right.

2<sup>nd</sup> VILLAGER: But, we can't have a Washing Day without a song.

3<sup>rd</sup> VILLAGER: No! Adalicia! Adalicia! Where is she?

*(ADALICIA enters.)*

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* There she is! Adalicia! Over here! Etc.

A VILLAGER: Come, Adalicia. You must sing us a song for Washing Day.

ADALACIA: A song for Washing Day?

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Yes, yes. Etc.

ADALICIA: Oh, very well. After all, we did rehearse it.

*(MUSIC: SING A SONG.)*

Now, everyone, sing with me on the choruses!

COME ON, SING A SONG, SING A SONG.  
SING OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING ALONG.  
SING A SONG, SING A SONG.  
SING OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING ALONG.

OUR STOMACHS ARE EMPTY  
OUR CUPBOARDS ARE BARE  
BUT WE'RE NOT DOWNHEARTED,  
WE'VE MUSIC TO SPARE.

WE MAY NOT HAVE HEAT AND  
WE MAY NOT HAVE FOOD

BUT WE'LL SING ALONG  
FOR WE'RE ALL IN THE MOOD

WITH VILLAGERS: FOR A SONG, SING A SONG.  
SING OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING ALONG.  
SING A SONG, SING A SONG.  
SING OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING ALONG.

ADALICIA: THE WINTERS ARE ENDLESS,  
THE SUMMERS ARE WET,  
WE MAKE OUR OWN FUN AND  
WE TAKE WHAT WE GET.

PERUSAL COPY ONLY  
WE'VE CRIBBAGE AND CHECKERS,  
MONOPOLY, TOO.  
WE PLAY GAMES TOGETHER!  
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

PLEASE CONTACT AUTHOR FOR RIGHTS  
WITH VILLAGERS: SING A SONG, SING A SONG.  
SING OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING ALONG.  
SING A SONG, SING A SONG.  
SING OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING ALONG.

ADALICIA: I'VE SUCH A NICE GARDEN  
WHERE I LIKE TO PLAY,  
MY GARDEN IS OPEN  
FOR FUN EVERY DAY.

COME INTO MY GARDEN,  
AND PLAY WITH MY TOYS  
NO NEED TO BE BASHFUL  
– ESPECIALLY THE BOYS!

WITH VILLAGERS: SING A SONG, SING A SONG.  
SING OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING ALONG.  
SING A SONG, SING A SONG.  
SING OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING  
OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING  
OUT LOUD AND WE'LL ALL SING ALONG.

*(Cheers and laughter. VIDOW VINKLE enters with  
RUPERT.)*

VIDOW: Hello, children! *(Wait for response.)* It sounds like a Boxing Day sale at

Costco.

*(ADALICIA gets the VILLAGER's attention.)*

ADALICIA: Friends! Friends! Listen to me. Widow Vinkle has terrible news.

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Oh, no! What's happened? Etc.

ADALICIA: Her dear children Hansel and Gretel are gone.

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Oh! No! Etc.

ADALICIA: We all must help her find them.

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Sure! Absolutely! Right! Etc.

WIDOW: Oh, sank you, friends. Zey vere taken from me by Baron Vasteland.

VILLAGERS: *(Together.)* Vasteland?

WIDOW: No, Vasteland.

VILLAGERS: *(Together.)* Oh!

WIDOW: Und he's taken zem into ze dark forest.

VILLAGERS: *(Together.)* Ah!

WIDOW: So, who'll go into ze Dark Forest vis us und fight ze Evil Baron?

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Well... I, uhm... I've ... maybe not ... Etc.

1<sup>st</sup> VILLAGER: I think I left the stove on.

2<sup>nd</sup> VILLAGER: Yes, so did I.

3<sup>rd</sup> VILLAGER: I just remembered. I've got the plague. *(Fake coughs.)*

4<sup>th</sup> VILLAGER: And, I've got to go discover America.

*(One by one, the VILLAGERS all beg off.)*

RUPERT: Poltroons! Too cowardly to face the unknown evils of a dangerous wild-animal infested jungle.

VIDOW: Vell, ven you put it zat vay ...

ADALICIA: So, it's just the three of us, then. *(She looks at RUPERT.)* The three of us?

RUPERT: Of course.

*(They gaze at each other, moonie-eyed. PANZ enters, making a lot of noise.)*

PANZ: Inn-keeper! Ale and sausage for two. My friend will be right along. He's just parking the ox-cart. Sauerkraut for one. He's sour enough already.

ADALICIA: *(To VIDOW and RUPERT.)* That's one of the pair who were giving free candy to the children in the village today.

*(POTZ enters, also making lots of noise.)*

PLEASE CONTACT AUTHOR FOR

And that's the other one!

POTZ: *(To PANZ.)* Have you ever seen a penguin this big?

PANZ: No.

POTZ: I think I just ran over a nun! *(They laugh.)*

ADALICIA: Maybe they know something about where the Baron has taken the children.

RUPERT: But how to find out without raising their suspicions? I know! I shall throw them off their guard with *bonhommie*.

VIDOW: Vis vat?

RUPERT: *Germütlichkeit.*

VIDOW: Vell, vy didn't you say so?

RUPERT: Watch. *(He ambles up to POTZ and PANZ.)* Good day, my good fellows. *(POTZ and PANZ turn away.)* It's a hot day, isn't it? *(POTZ and PANZ ignore him.)* Yes, a tankard of ale goes down well after a hard day's work. You know, sheep-herding? Tinkering? Kidnapping children?

POTZ: Knock, knock.

RUPERT: Who's there?  
PANZ: Dummy.  
RUPERT: Dummy who?  
POTZ/PANZ: Dummy a favour and get lost!

*(RUPERT returns to ADALICIA and VIDOW.)*

RUPERT: They were too clever for the old *bonhommie* trick.

VIDOW: Ze vat trick?

RUPERT: The old *Germütlichkeit* trick.

VIDOW: Schpeak ze King's German, vy don't you? So, Adalicia, it looks like ye have to fall back on ze oldest trick of all. Ze feminine viles.

ADALICIA: Ooh, I don't like to get too close to those two.

VIDOW: Don't worry. *(She puffs up her hair and bosoms.)* I've got zis. *(She sidles up to POTZ and PANZ. In a sultry voice.)* Hello, boys. Been on ze road long?

POTZ: Not that long.

PANZ: I don't think there's a road long enough.

POTZ: That's quite a dress you're wearing.

VIDOW: Zis old dress? I got it for a ridiculous price.

PANZ: You mean, you got it for an absurd figure.

VIDOW: It must be very lonely on ze road for you.

POTZ: It must be very lonely anywhere for you.

VIDOW: Out on ze road, no wife, no children.

PANZ: What are you getting at?

VIDOW: Ven vas ze last time you heard ze happy voices of children?

POTZ: Knock, knock.

VIDOW: Who's zere?

PANZ: Ima.

VIDOW: Ima who?

POTZ/PANZ: Ima going to dump this beer on your head if you don't take off.

*(VIDOW retreats quickly. ADALICIA moves away from RUPERT, and goes to POTZ and PANZ with two tankards.)*

VIDOW: *(To RUPERT.)* Ze old feminine viles vorked better last time I used zem.

RUPERT: When was that?

VIDOW: During ze Crusades.

RUPERT: I'm very worried about my horse.

VIDOW: About your vat, dear?

RUPERT: My horse!

VIDOW: Oh, horse! I'm a little deaf, dear. My uncle died from deafness.

RUPERT: How do you die from deafness?

VIDOW: He didn't hear ze train. So, you've got a horse?

RUPERT: Well, I used to. I fell off Valiant somewhere in the dark forest.

VIDOW: Valiant? He's stew by now.

RUPERT: We already did that joke.

VIDOW: My children have been gone sree whole days: yesterday, today und tomorrow.

RUPERT: Are they good children?

VIDOW: Are zere bad children? *(Turning to the audience.)* Vat do you say? Are

zere bad children? ... No? ... No? ... Let's ask your parents. ... No? ...  
You've got ze vool pulled down very firmly, haven't you?

RUPERT: What were their names again?

VIDOW: Hansel und Gretel. Gretel is zo schmart! She can take care of herself.

RUPERT: And, Hansel?

VIDOW: Ven he goes to a mind-reader, zey only charge half-price.

*(POTZ and PANZ are drunk and singing.)*

POTZ/PANZ: EIN PROSIT, EIN PROSIT, DER GERMÜTLICHKEIT!  
ZIGGY-ZAGGA, ZIGGY-ZAGGA, HOY, HOY, HOY!  
ZIGGY-ZAGGA, ZIGGY-ZAGGA, HOY, HOY, HOY!

*(They down their drinks and ADALICIA gives them more.)*

ADALICIA: Drink those down, boys. I'll be right back with more.

POTZ/PANZ: EIN PROSIT, EIN PROSIT, DER GERMÜTLICHKEIT!

ADALICIA: *(Joining RUPERT and VIDOW.)* So! They work for Lady Malevola. She has a cottage deep in the forest and she lures children there. So, if the Baron took the children into the forest, chances are they'll end up at Lady Malevola's cottage.

RUPERT: How did you find that out?

ADALICIA: *Bonhommie* and feminine wiles. To the forest! *(She exits.)*

RUPERT: To the forest! *(He exits.)*

VIDOW: To ze forest! *(She exits.)*

POTZ/PANZ: ZIGGY-ZAGGA, ZIGGY-ZAGGA, HOY, HOY, HOY!  
ZIGGY-ZAGGA, ZIGGY-ZAGGA, HOY, HOY, HOY!

*(They exit.)*

**END OF SCENE**

**HANSEL & GRETTEL**

A Panto

Act I

Scene 6 - Deep in the forest

GRETEL: Oh, Hansel, ve're lost, ve're lost! Ve're lost in ze Great Forest.

HANSEL: I don't know. It's an Okay Forest, but I wouldn't say it vas a Great Forest. But, it certainly is dark und forboding.

GRETEL: Don't tell me you're shcared!

HANSEL: All right, I von't tell you I'm shcared. I'll tell you I'm frightened out of my vits!

GRETEL: Vell, at least you don't have far to go. I'm so hungry, Hansel. Ve don't have anything to eat.

HANSEL: Ve vould have, but somebody made me crumble it up to feed ze birds.

GRETEL: *(Getting an idea.)* I know! Ve can find some nuts under ze trees.

HANSEL: Zere's a few out zere und all.

GRETEL: Zere's a vall of trees right here.

HANSEL: Vat'll zat give us?

GRETEL: Valnuts. Und see? Zis tree's only as high as my chest.

HANSEL: Don't tell me.

GRETEL: Chestnuts.

HANSEL: Vat kind of tree is zis?

GRETEL: Zat's a dough-tree.

HANSEL: Vat do you get from zat?

GRETEL: Doughnuts.

HANSEL: How about zis yer-tree?

GRETEL: Vat do you get from a yer-tree?

HANSEL: Yer nuts!

GRETEL: But zese valnuts are delicious!

HANSEL: Are valnuts green vis lots of legs?

GRETEL: No.

HANSEL: Zen you just ate a caterpillar.

GRETEL: *(Spitting it out.)* Pt-aah! Pt-aah! Pt-aah! Yuck!

HANSEL: So. Ze moss grows on ze north side of ze tree, ja?

GRETEL: So ze Girl Scout handbook says.

HANSEL: Ven vere you a Girl Scout?

GRETEL: I vasn't but vun of my girlfriends vas.

HANSEL: Vow, you've got a girlfriend? How come I'm ze last to know?

GRETEL: No, it's ... never mind.

HANSEL: Now, if zat's north, then ve are ... losht. Ve're so losht ve're not even on Google Maps.

GRETEL: Ve're a long vay into ze dark forest, Hansel.

HANSEL: So, far ve can see ze ozzer side.

GRETEL: Vat's on ze ozzer side?

HANSEL: More forest.

GRETEL: Ve need to find some food; ve need to find a place to shleep; und ve need to find our vay out of zis forest.

HANSEL: Vell, I need some better jokes in zis schtinker of a play, but zat's not going to happen, ee-zzer.

GRETEL: Cheer up, Hansel. Zere's always light at ze end of ze tunnel.

HANSEL: Ja, but vis my luck, it'll be a train.

GRETEL: Now, look, Hansel. No more Herr Negative from you. Ve must accentuate ze positive. Ven I say “right”, you say “ok”; ven I say “ok”, you say “right”. Ok?

HANSEL: Right.

GRETEL: Right.

HANSEL: Ok.

GRETEL: Ok.

HANSEL: Right.

GRETEL: Right.

HANSEL: Ok.

GRETEL: You're not going to shtop zis, are you?

HANSEL: Not ever. Ok?

GRETEL: Right. Now, if ve shtay here, ve shtarve. Let's get moving, ok?

HANSEL: Right! Hold my hand, Gretel.

*(MUSIC: Mysterioso Pizzicato with wild animal sounds.  
They move down into the house and through the audience.)*

*(The scene changes to:)*

**HANSEL & GRETTEL**

A Panto

Act I

Scene 7 - a different part of the forest with the Witch's Cottage centre.

GRETTEL: Look, Hansel. It's a house.

*(They approach the stage.)*

HANSEL: It's a beautiful house, Gretel.

*(They come up onto the stage.)*

BOTH: It's a candy cottage!

*(They approach the cottage warily.)*

HANSEL: It looks delicious.

GRETTEL: It looks scrumptious.

BOTH: It looks edible!

GRETTEL: Oh, Hansel! I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse!

HANSEL: I'm so hungry, I could eat a house!

*(They look at the house, then at each other.)*

GRETTEL: *(To the audience.)* Wat do you think? Should ve eat some of it? ...

HANSEL: No? ... Ve shouldn't?

GRETTEL: Oh! Ve should? ...

HANSEL: Ve shouldn't? ...

GRETTEL: Ve should?...

HANSEL: Should? ...

GRETTEL: Shouldn't? ...

BOTH: Vell, make up your minds!

HANSEL: Zere's only vun vay to settle zis. Ve toss a coin.

GRETEL: A coin? Nobody in all Bavaria has a coin.

HANSEL: *(Going into the audience.)* How about you? You got a coin? Don't worry, you'll get it back – have I ever lied to you – zat you know of? Okay. *(Audience should respond “Right.”)* Right. *(Audience should respond “Okay.”)* It's your own time you're vasting, you know. Now, ve flip ze coin. Vait! Eager Edgar. Heads, ve schneak away to anoizzer part of ze forest. Tails, ve eat ze house. Okay? *(Audience should respond “Right.”)* No, ve're not scharting zat again. Schpin it! *(Audience member flips the coin.)* Vat vas it? *(If “tails”.)* Good, because ve vere going to eat it anyway. *(If “heads.”)* Did you sink zere vas ever a chance ve vere NOT going to eat it? *(He starts to move away.)* Vat? Oh, ja. Here's your coin. Schtingy.

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*(He comes back to the stage.)*  
Gretel! It's decided. Ve eat ze place!

GRETEL: Dibs on ze door-knob!

*(They rush to the cottage and pull pieces off of it, munching on them enthusiastically.)*

Oh, zis is heaven!

HANSEL: Zis makes boot soup tastes like old boots!

GRETEL: I never go back to Schplitzenpantz if zis is ze vay zey eat out here.

HANSEL: I never go back to Schplitzenpantz, period! “Don't go into ze voods, children. Zere are lions und tigers und Republicans zere!” Ppphht!

BOTH: Yumm! *(They both eat for a while.)*

GRETEL: Hansel.

HANSEL: Yes, Gretel?

GRETEL: Are you sinking vat I am sinking?

HANSEL: Vat are you sinking?

GRETEL: I am sinking “If zis is vat ze outside tastes like ...”

HANSEL: “... vat does ze inside taste like?” Oh, look! A sign und it says: “Little children, ring ze bell.” Oh, I guess ve should ring ze bell, zen.

GRETEL: I don’t know, Hansel. Remember vat Mutti always said.

HANSEL: “Schtöp picking at zat. Bubonic plague goes away if you leave it alone”?

GRETEL: No! “Never knock on a door if you don’t know vat’s on ze oizzer side.”

HANSEL: Ppphhtt! Ve aren’t knocking; ve’re ringing.

GRETEL: I don’t know if ve should. *(To the audience.)* Vat do you think? Should ve ring ze bell? ...

HANSEL: No? ... Ve shouldn’t?

GRETEL: Oh! Ve should? ...

HANSEL: Ve shouldn’t? ...

GRETEL: Ve should?...

HANSEL: Should? ...

GRETEL: Shouldn’t? ...

HANSEL: Look, did you really sink ve vere going to listen to you, anyway?

BOTH: Ve're ringing ze bell!

*(They ring the bell. It reverberates and when it stops, the door slowly opens from inside. Smoke and light come from inside. MUSIC. HANSEL and GRETEL run and hide.)*

VOICE FROM OFF: NIBBLE, NIBBLE, LITTLE MOUSEKIN.  
WHO’S THAT NIBBLING ON MY HOUSEKIN?

*(LADY MALEVOLA enters, majestically, with music and effects. She is beautiful.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: OH, CHILDREN, COME OUT FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE.

YOU'RE SO WELCOME HERE, FROM NEAR OR FROM FAR.  
MY BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IS YOURS TO ENJOY.  
WITH LOVE AND WITH TREATS FOR EACH GIRL AND BOY.

NIBBLE, NIBBLE, LITTLE MOUSEKIN.  
WHO'S THAT NIBBLING ON MY HOUSEKIN?

*(HANSEL and GRETEL creep out from hiding.)*

OH, HANSEL AND GRETEL, YOU'VE COME HERE AT LAST.  
WE'VE BEEN HERE WAITING, THESE LONG DAYS PAST.  
I'LL OPEN MY DOORS AND OFFER YOU REST,  
AND SAFETY AND LOVE AND ALL THAT IS BEST.  
CANDIES, CAKES AND ALL THAT'S SWEET,  
ALL THE THINGS YOU LOVE TO EAT.

HANSEL: Sold!

*(He starts for the house, but GRETEL stops him.)*

GRETEL: Vait! Remember vat mutti said.

HANSEL: “Knock off ze crying or I'll knock you into ze middle of next veek”?

GRETEL: No! “Never trust a stranger vis sweeties.”

HANSEL: Oh, zat. Ppphhhhh!

LADY MALEVOLA: But, Gretel, my dear. I'm no stranger. Remember how delicious my lollipops were?

HANSEL: Ja, I remember your lollipops.

GRETEL: Hansel!

HANSEL: Gretel, ve go in, ve taste a few schveeties, ve catch a few zeas. Vat could go wrong?

LADY MALEVOLA: Yes, what could go wrong? Come in. We're all friends here.

GRETEL: Vell... before ve go in, I have some questions. Is your house made from tree- and ground-nut free sources? Und is it gluten- und animal-source free?

HANSEL: Gretel, don't look a gift schveetie in ze cavity.

GRETEL: I schtill don't know. *(To the audience.)* Vat do you think? Should ve go inside? ...

HANSEL: No? ... Ve shouldn't?

GRETEL: Oh! Ve should? ...

HANSEL: Ve shouldn't? ...

GRETEL: Ve should?...

HANSEL: Should? ...

GRETEL: Shouldn't? ...

HANSEL: To heck vis it!

BOTH: Ve're going in!

LADY MALEVOLA: OH, CHILDREN, COME OUT FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE.  
YOU'RE SO WELCOME HERE, FROM NEAR OR FROM FAR.  
MY BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IS YOURS TO ENJOY.  
WITH LOVE AND WITH TREATS FOR EACH GIRL AND BOY.

*(They both rush into the house. LADY MALEVOLA laughs aloud and turns to the audience.)*

And don't think I'll forget about you, either! Ha, ha, ha!

*(She sweeps into the cottage and the door closes. After a moment, a pantomime horse wanders through and exits. Light down.)*

**END OF ACT ONE**

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act II

Scene 1 - The Village Inn

VILLAGERS: WELCOME BACK, YOU KIDDIES,  
AND PARENTS, YOU, AS WELL!  
WE HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD TIME  
IN THE INTERVAL.

WE'RE STILL HERE IN THE FOREST,  
WE STILL HAVE GOT NO FOOD.  
IF YOU'D BOUGHT A COOKIE FOR US,  
THE ACT COULD BE RENEWED.

IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST.  
IT'S A FIGHT JUST TO STAY ALIVE!  
IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST  
AND WE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!

WHERE'S HANSEL?  
WHERE'S GRETEL?  
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.  
IF THEY'VE WANDERED TO THE FOREST,  
THEY'VE WANDERED OFF TOO FAR.

POOR GRETEL!  
POOR HANSEL!  
WE FOLK OF SCHPLITZENPANTZ  
WOULD RUSH RIGHT OUT TO FIND THEM,  
BUT THEY HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!

*(Dance interlude: a Bavarian clapping, stomping dance.)*

ALL: IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST.  
WILL THOSE TWO KIDS SURVIVE?  
IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST  
AND THEY WON'T COME OUT ALIVE!  
WE'RE GIVING ODDS, NOW!  
AND THEY WON'T COME OUT ALIVE!

*(At the end of the song, VIDOW VINKLE enters, wearing hiking boots with a Tyrolean hat.)*

VIDOW: Hello, children! *(Wait for reaction.)* Oh, my giddy aunt! Aschleep already? Vakey, vakey! Hello, children! *(Wait for reaction.)* Zat was like a vet Wednesday in *(nearby small town)*. So, has anybody seen my kids, yet?

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* No. Sorry. Not yet. Not a glimmer. Etc.

VIDOW: Vell, zat's annoying. Gretel knew vat she vas to do and even Hansel isn't zo schtupid zat he wouldn't figure out to get home before ze dark.

VILLAGERS: Well, you know kids these days.

VIDOW: Ven I vas young, ve had to fight off Mongols und Turks und Vikings, every day – before breakfascht. Kids today – a little kidnapping by an Evil Baron und zey go to pieces. Oh, if only my husband had not died in childbirss ...

VILLAGERS: Childbirss?

VIDOW: Don't ask. So now ve go to find zem. Adalicia und Prince Rupert will be here soon. Aren't zey just adorable? I feel a Royal Veding coming on!

*(RUPERT enters, laden down with useless gear.)*

Vell, here you are, but vere is your friend? You and Adalicia vas getting very chummy in ze first act.

RUPERT: Oh, no, no, no! No, no! No, no, no, no! No, no, no!

VIDOW: Mesinks ze Princey does protest too much. So vere is she?

RUPERT: She was just ... I mean, she was putting ... I've brought the rescue gear!

VIDOW: Rescue gear?

RUPERT: Yes, things we might need to rescue the children from certain peril.

VIDOW: Very clever of you. Vat have you brought?

RUPERT: *(He holds up each item.)* Well, rescue rope to climb a mountain.

VIDOW: Zere are no mountains in zis part of Bavaria.

RUPERT: Are you sure?

VIDOW: I've never had to climb vun yet.

RUPERT: So, we don't need the rope?

VIDOW: Nope.

*(He tosses it aside.)*

RUPERT: A rescue ice axe.

VIDOW: For climbing mountains?

RUPERT: Yes.

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*(She stares at him a moment and he tosses it aside.)*

VIDOW: Vat else?

RUPERT: Rescue running shoes.

VIDOW: Vat for?

RUPERT: In case we need to run away.

VIDOW: I'll take zose.

*(He gives them to her.)*

RUPERT: *(Pulling a stuffed dog out of the bag.)* My rescue puppy.

VIDOW: Zat's zo cuuuute! Him, ve keep.

RUPERT: Rescue sun block. Even in the forest, you can't be too careful.

VIDOW: Absolutely. May I have some?

*(He hands it to her; she throws it over her shoulder.)*

RUPERT: Rescue hand sanitiser?

*(He throws it away.)*

Dental floss?

*(He throws it away.)*

VIDOW: You've never rescued anybody before, have you?

RUPERT: Not as such, no. It's been more sitting around the castle, admiring the tapestries, the odd knighting ...

VIDOW: Not really in touch vis ze common people up at ze kessle, are ve?

RUPERT: Ah. Well, now's the time, then. What can be keeping Adalicia?

VIDOW: Ve call for her, okay? *(Audience hopefully responds "Right!")* No, zat's Hansel's gag. So, ve call for Adalicia on sree. Ready? Vun, two – four! Vait! Vait! Did I say sree? You've got ze sauerkraut in your ears again. Ve try again. Vun, two – seven! Oh, now you're using your schmarts. *(Very quickly.)* Vun-two-sree! Adalicia! Adalicia!

*(ADALICIA enters, with a horse bridle.)*

RUPERT: Where have you been?

ADALICIA: Is this yours?

RUPERT: No, I don't wear a bridle, anymore.

ADALICIA: I mean, is this your horse's?

RUPERT: What? Yes! That's Stu's!

ADALICIA: You mean Valiant.

RUPERT: I hope. Where did you find it?

ADALICIA: Someone was going to make soup from it. I gave them my old shoes.

VIDOW: Mm! Delicious!

RUPERT: So, Valiant may still be out there – unless someone has found him already.

ADALICIA: Well, let's go, then. Into the woods!

RUPERT: Into the woods!

VIDOW: Into ze voods!

VILLAGERS: INTO THE WOODS! INTO THE WOODS! INTO THE WOODS!

VIDOW: Vait! Vait! Schtop zinging! Ve can't afford ze rights to zat song.

RUPERT: Besides are you all coming with us? Changed your minds, have you?

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Oh, no. I ... uhm ... that is, my ... uhm ... Etc.

A VILLAGER: My aunt is ... uhm ... visiting ... from *(nearby small town)*.

ANOTHER VILLAGER: I have to clean out my eaves.

ANOTHER VILLAGER: I have to clean out his eaves, too.

ANOTHER VILLAGER: I have to go and sit under an apple tree.

RUPERT: Why?

SAME VILLAGER: I'm going to invent gravity.

VIDOW: I bet all you get is a sore noggin.

ADALICIA: All right, then, don't help! We don't need you. We can do it ourselves.

*(RUPERT, ADALICIA and VIDOW start to exit.)*

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Right! Sure, you can! Good luck! Bon voyage! Prosit! Hals und Beinbruch! Say hello to the kids for me! Gesundheit! Viel Glück! I really do have to clean out my eaves. All the best!

*(The rescuers are gone.)*

A VILLAGER: That's the last we'll see of them.

*(The VILLAGERS pick up their laundry and exit.)*

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Happy Washing Day, everybody! Fröliche Waschen Tag! Etc.

**END OF SCENE**

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act II

Scene 2 - Inside The Gingerbread House

*(HANSEL and GRETEL enter the cottage in wonder.)*

GRETEL: Oh, Hansel!

HANSEL: Oh, Gretel!

BOTH: We're going to have a good time here!

*(They dance in a circle. LADY MALEVOLA enters.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: Are you having a good time, children?

BOTH: Oh, yes, ssank you!

LADY MALEVOLA: There's nothing I like more than seeing children so full of life.

HANSEL: Zat's vunderful. Vat is your name?

LADY MALEVOLA: I am the Lady Malevola.

GRETEL: Zat's odd. It sounds as if your name is based on ze Latin vord for "evil".

LADY MALEVOLA: Speak Latin, do you, girl?

GRETEL: Not really.

LADY MALEVOLA: It's actually based on the Latin for "lover of little children".

HANSEL: Oh, isn't zat nice? Vat are zose?

LADY MALEVOLA: What are what, dear?

HANSEL: *(Pointing.)* Zose!

LADY MALEVOLA: I'm a bit short-sighted. You'll have to point louder.

HANSEL: Zose round vite sings.

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, those are marshmallows. You want one?

HANSEL: Sure!

LADY MALEVOLA: Open your mouth. *(She pops a marshmallow in.)* Tasty, aren't they?

HANSEL: *(With mouth full.)* Mmm-mmm-mmm.

GRETEL: You are so nice. You must love little children.

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, yes. I do love little children. Don't I, boys?

*(POTZ and PANZ enter suddenly from hiding spots.)*

POTZ/PANZ: Oh, she loves little children – baked!

*(POTZ and PANZ suddenly grab HANSEL and GRETEL.)*

GRETEL: Vat are you doing?

PANZ: We're having you for supper.

GRETEL: Oh, zat's nice. Vat are ve having?

POTZ/PANZ: You!

GRETEL: Zat's not so nice!

HANSEL: Ve sought you vere a nice old lady!

LADY MALEVOLA: Old! Right! He goes into the oven first!

*(POTZ starts to push HANSEL toward the oven.)*

GRETEL: Vait! You can't eat us! It's not right!

LADY MALEVOLA: Why shouldn't I eat you? You ate my house.

GRETEL: Ze two cases are hardly morally parallel.

LADY MALEVOLA: Says you.

GRETEL: A person shouldn't make a house out of schveeties if zey don't vant it to be eaten!

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, you're quite right. I make it out of sweeties so that all the little

children will stop to taste it. Then we grab them!

GRETEL: Vy, you're nossing but a vicked old ...

LADY MALEVOLA: Go on. You were saying?

GRETEL: Vell, I didn't vant to reinforce cultural schtereotypes.

HANSEL: I vill! You're a vicked old vitch!

LADY MALEVOLA: Right, my little stupid. Got it in one!

*(Thunder, flash, smoke; LADY MALEVOLA transforms to a nasty witch. Try to do this in three seconds, please.)*

What do you say, now, kiddies?

HANSEL: You don't clean up as good as some.

LADY MALEVOLA: And, now: into the oven!

GRETEL: Vait! You don't vant to eat us!

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, I think I do.

GRETEL: But, ve haven't eaten in veeks. Ve're nossing but schkin und bones!

LADY MALEVOLA: True. *(She pokes HANSEL.)* You could do with a little meat on you.

HANSEL: I've always been schmall for my size.

LADY MALEVOLA: So, we fatten you up a bit. Here, boy. Have a marshmallow.

HANSEL: I ... *(She stuffs one in his mouth.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: Have two! *(She shoves another in.)* How about another? *(She keeps stuffing HANSEL's mouth.)* What do you think, kids, another one? *(Kids will say yes.)* How about one more? And another? Oh, there's room for one more, there! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

*(She keeps stuffing him as the lights come down.)*

**END OF SCENE**

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act II

Scene 3 - Deep in the Forest

*(RUPERT and ADALICIA enter, hand in hand. They stop centre and look at each other, moonie-eyed.)*

VIDOW: *(Off.)* Zat's all right. I carry all of zis. It's only fifty miles.

*(She enters, weighed down with bags and equipment.)*

You sink maybe *somebody* might give me a hand?

RUPERT: I'm terribly sorry, ma'am. I was pre-occupied.

*(He relieves her of her burden and puts it down.)*

VIDOW: You vas pre-occu-somesing. Hello ...! *(Children should yell.)* Ah, ah, ah! Vait for it! ... children! *(Wait for response.)* An act and a half and you're finally getting it.

RUPERT: I'll make a fire.

ADALICIA: And, I'll make some food.

VIDOW: Und I go to find ze little vidow's bush. *(She looks at RUPERT and ADALICIA and at the audience.)* You all just amuse yourselves vile I'm gone, because zey're too pre-occu-somesing to do it. *(She exits.)*

RUPERT: Well, here we are – alone.

ADALICIA: We certainly are.

RUPERT: I don't often find myself alone in the forest with a member of the opposite sex.

ADALICIA: Really? Happens to me all the time.

RUPERT: Oh! You've led a very different life to mine.

ADALICIA: I would say so. I've worked and fought my way through life; you're a prince.

RUPERT: May I hold your hand?

ADALICIA: No, thank you, I can manage. It's not heavy.

RUPERT: Have I offended you?

ADALICIA: Yes! You're a prince!

RUPERT: Yes ... sorry, can't help that. I wasn't consulted.

ADALICIA: And as soon as all this is over and we've found the children and you've found your horse, you'll be off back to the castle and I'll ... we'll all be here – just as before.

RUPERT: Is that what you think? That's not the kind of prince I am. I'm not a trifler.

ADALICIA: Yeah, I've heard that before.

RUPERT: Adalicia, look at me. *(She reluctantly does so.)* I'm here. I'm not going anywhere – or, if I do, you're coming with me.

ADALICIA: Really? Really! *(She throws her arms around his neck.)* My mother warned me about men like you.

RUPERT: Royalty with pots of money and the best of intentions?

ADALICIA: Come to think of it, it wasn't men like you she warned me about, at all. *(To the audience.)* What do you think? Should I believe him?... Should I? ... I should? ... I shouldn't? ... I should? ... Oh, what do you know about it – you can't even drive, yet! *(She puts her arms around him again.)* Now, what should we do, all alone, in the near darkness, with no one around, that would leave us both very happy and perhaps slightly flushed?

RUPERT: Sing a song together about our predicament?

ADALICIA: *(Pause.)* Okay, let's sing a song.

*(MUSIC: I'm In Love)*

RUPERT: I'M FEELING SO FUNNY, I DON'T KNOW MY NAME.  
*(To audience.)* I'M IN LOVE! I'M IN LOVE!

ADALICIA: WE JUST MET AND, BOY!, NOW I'M FEELING THE SAME!  
*(To audience.)* I'M IN LOVE! I'M IN LOVE!

RUPERT: SHE LOOKED AT ME, MUSHY LIKE, THAT TURNED ME LOOSE!

I SAID TO HER, "I DO LIKE YOU!"

ADALICIA: I GIGGLED AND SAID THAT I FELT LIKE A GOOSE!  
HE SAID, "YES, I FEEL LIKE ONE, TOO."

BOTH: I'M IN LOVE! I'M IN LOVE!  
THERE'S AN AGES-OLD LOOK IN MY EYE.  
I'M IN LOVE! I'M IN LOVE!  
OH, IT'S NICE TO BE KISSED ON THE SLY. (DON'T KNOW WHY.)

RUPERT: I FEEL FINE! IT'S DIVINE WHEN YOU  
STROLL WITH THE MOON UP ABOVE.

ADALICIA: OH, I'M NOT ONE TO TEASE, AND I'M SURE ONE TO SQUEEZE,

BOTH: OH, IT'S LOVELY TO BE IN LOVE!

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*(The music continues as they stand in the moonlight.)*

ADALICIA: Rupert?

RUPERT: Yes, Adalicia?

ADALICIA: We're here, all alone, in the moonlight.

RUPERT: Yes, I can see that.

ADALICIA: What do you think we should do, with a big full moon shining down on us?

RUPERT: I know what I want to do.

ADALICIA: *(Sidling up to him.)* Yes?

RUPERT: But, I didn't bring my telescope with me. I love studying the craters of the moon.

ADALICIA: *(To audience.)* This relationship is going to take a lot of work.

RUPERT: Adalicia?

ADALICIA: Yes, Rupert?

RUPERT: Stop me, if I'm being forward, but, may I kiss your hand?

ADALICIA: Why, is my face dirty?

*(Instead of kissing, they suddenly sing.)*

BOTH: I'M IN LOVE! I'M IN LOVE!  
THERE'S AN AGES-OLD LOOK IN HIS (HER) EYE.  
I'M IN LOVE! I'M IN LOVE!  
OH, IT'S EASY TO KISS, IF YOU TRY. (YOU KNOW WHY.)

RUPERT: I FEEL FINE! IT'S DIVINE WHEN YOU  
STROLL WITH THE MOON UP ABOVE.

ADALICIA: OH, I'M NOT ONE TO TEASE,

RUPERT: AND SHE'S SURE ONE TO SQUEEZE,

BOTH: OH, IT'S LOVELY TO BE IN LOVE!

*(The music ends, they nearly kiss, but VIDOW returns, interrupting them.)*

VIDOW: Vatch for ze poison ivy behind ... *(They break)* Oh, sorry! Awkward!

RUPERT: Not at all, Vidow Vinkle. We were discussing ... things.

VIDOW: Ve didn't call it discussing ven I vas your age.

ADALICIA: I'll get that fire started.

RUPERT: And, I'll make some food.

*(They exit in opposite directions.)*

VIDOW: Und I'll keep vatch. Ze Dark Forest is a schcary place. Zere are lions und tigers und badgers. Zo, I vill keep a sharp lookout. If you see anysing nasty, you let me know. *(She ostentatiously keeps watch.)* You see anysing nasty yet? No? *(She ostentatiously keeps watch.)* Anysing yet? No? *(She goes back to keeping watch. After a moment, the BARON enters behind them, slowly. The audience should react.)* Vat? Vat is it? Ze Baron? Vere? *(The BARON sneaks out. "He's behind you")* He's vat? *(“He's behind you”)* He's vere? *(“He's behind you”)*. I don't see him. I sink you are fooling me. *(The BARON sneaks in. “He's behind you”)* Vere? *(The BARON sneaks out. “He's behind you”)* Vat? *(“He's behind you”)*. No, he isn't. I'm not going to believe you, anymore. *(The BARON sneaks in. “He's behind you”)* No, I don't believe you. *(“He's behind you”)* Is nobody zere. *(The BARON taps her on the shoulder.)* AAAH! Vy didn't you tell me he vas zere?

BARON: Good evening, Widow Vinkle.

WIDOW: Not Vinkle! Vinkle!

BARON: Sorry.

*(RUPERT and ADALICIA enter.)*

RUPERT: Here, now, Baron! What are you up to, now?

BARON: I suppose I'm not very welcome here, right now.

WIDOW: Between you and a horde of Mongol invaders, I take my chances vis ze Mongols.

BARON: Widow, when I took your children I was under the influence of an evil woman.

WIDOW: Vich evil voman vas zat?

BARON: Lady Malevola. She has a cottage on the other side of the wood and she entrapped me, enslaved me, made me do her evil bidding.

ADALICIA: She's had a face-lift, too.

WIDOW: So, taking my children vas her doing?

BARON: Yes, it was.

WIDOW: And ssrowing me out of my hovel?

BARON: Her, as well.

WIDOW: And ze monstrous rent you are asking for a dirt-floor shack?

BARON: I thought it was a hovel?

WIDOW: I am asking ze questions here. Vat about ze rent?

BARON: Actually, that was just standard evil landlord behaviour. All landlords do it.

RUPERT: And what about the Royal Treasury? I suppose that was Lady Malevola, too.

BARON: Absolutely. One hundred percent her idea – your Royal Highness.

RUPERT: Well, I'll tell you what, Baron. If we find the Widow's children, and if the Royal

Treasury is restored, and if you take steps to guarantee the Vidow has a roof over her head, I may – I say, may – forgive you.

BARON: Thank you, sir. I can lead us to Lady Malevola's cottage right now. It's not far.

RUPERT: Then, let's go, by all means.

VIDOW: Lead on, Baron. Let's find zis evil woman.

ADALICIA: I bet she colours her hair.

*(They pick up their equipment and exit.)*

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**END OF SCENE**

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**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act II

Scene 4 - Inside the Gingerbread House

*(POTZ and PANZ enter, pulling GRETEL and HANSEL.  
LADY MALEVOLA enters.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: So, you think you can escape. Potz, the girl to the kitchen.

HANSEL: Zat's razzer sexist of you. Zis is fourteen ssirty vun, after all. Ve're not in ze Dark Ages. Vy don't you send me to ze kitchen?

LADY MALEVOLA: Because you go into the cage! Panz! And if I catch you trying to escape again, it's ... *(Mimes slitting throat.)* "quaaack!"

HANSEL: Vat, you turn me into a duck?

LADY MALEVOLA: Roast duck!

*(PANZ pushes HANSEL into the cage and closes the door.)*

And, now we will fatten you up, good and proper. You get the easy part. You get to eat everything Gretel bakes for you.

HANSEL: You call zat ze easy part? Heff you tasted her cooking?

GRETEL: Hey!

HANSEL: Come on, Gretel. Your Linzertorte tastes like dumplings und your dumplings taste like dumplings – vissout ze lings.

LADY MALEVOLA: It doesn't matter what it tastes like. You just have to fatten up nicely for my oven! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

GRETEL: Did you have a unhappy childhood?

LADY MALEVOLA: You leave my mother out of this!

GRETEL: Ooh! Hit a nerve there!

LADY MALEVOLA: Start cooking! Potz, Panz! Keep better watch on them.

POTZ/PANZ: Yes, your evilness. Of course, your wickedness.

GRETEL: Vere are you going?

LADY MALEVOLA: There's a Wicked Witches convention this weekend. I'm the Keynote Speaker.

POTZ/PANZ: What's your topic, oh Vile One?

LADY MALEVOLA: "Ten mistakes villains make in planning evil plots."

HANSEL: Sounds fascinating. Can ve go?

LADY MALEVOLA: No! You eat! *(To GRETEL.)* You cook! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

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*(She exits, cackling.)*

HANSEL: Boy, vat a looney.

POTZ: Now, girl, start cooking. Make it fast. What do you want to eat first, boy?

HANSEL: Hundred-year old bird's nest soup.

PANZ: We haven't got a hundred-year-old bird's nest.

HANSEL: I vait.

POTZ: I think, some three minute eggs would be better.

HANSEL: Can ve compromise on some ssree-year-old cheddar?

PANZ: No! Get cracking, cookie!

GRETEL: If I crack ze eggs, I can't boil ze eggs. I could coddle ze eggs. You vant I should coddle ze eggs, Hansel?

HANSEL: I hate coddled eggs. How about some schrambled eggs?

GRETEL: Okay, I schramble ze eggs.

POTZ: No, you'll boil the eggs.

GRETEL: I could do sree schrambled eggs, two coddled eggs und a zunny-zide up.

PANZ: Boiled!

GRETEL: Und two boiled eggs!

POTZ: *(Making a strangled sound.)* Quaaaack!

GRETEL: Und a duck egg. So zat's sree schrambled eggs for Hansel, two coddled eggs for me, two boiled eggs for Panz und a duck egg for Potz.

POTZ: Listen! No schrambled, no coddled, no sunny-side up – and definitely no duck eggs. Just a big plate full of boiled eggs for the Sunday roast, here. *(Indicating HANSEL.)*

HANSEL: You can't cook me!

PANZ: And, why can't we cook you?

HANSEL: I'm not even here!

POTZ: What do you mean, you're not here?

HANSEL: Vell, I'm not in Berlin, am I?

PANZ: No, you're not in Berlin.

HANSEL: Und, I'm not in Dusseldorf, am I?

POTZ: No, you're not in Dusseldorf.

HANSEL: Und, I'm not in Cucamonga, am I?

POTZ/PANZ: No, you're not in Cucamonga.

HANSEL: So, I must be somevere else. And, if I'm somevere else, I'm not here.

POTZ: Sounds right to me. Wait a minute! Start cooking.

GRETEL: All right. Now, vat do I have to do first?

PANZ: Put water in the pot, girl!

GRETEL: Vich pot? Zis pot?

POTZ: No, zis pot! I mean, this pot!

GRETEL: Oh, I see. Vich is ze pot, again? Zis vun?

PANZ: No, that's a pan!

GRETEL: Zat's a pan? I sought zat vas a pot.

POTZ: No, this is a pot!

GRETEL: Zat's a pot? Vat's ze difference?

POTZ: The difference is one's a pot ...

PANZ: And one's a pan!

GRETEL: Oh! Pots und pans?

POTZ/PANZ: Potz and panz!

*(Music: a reprise of the clapping song.)*

BOTH: ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!  
COME AND SEE WHAT WE OFFER TODAY!  
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!  
COME AND TASTE OUR DELICIOUS DISPLAY!  
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!  
CAKES AND COOKIES AND SWEET CANDIES, TOO!  
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!  
SEE WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU!

GRETEL: MY FRIEND, HERR POTZ ...

HANSEL: AND MY FRIEND, HERR PANZ ...

BOTH: WILL SHOW YOU THE TASTIEST  
TREATS IN THE LAND!  
WE HAVE SCRUMPTIOUS DELIGHTS THAT WILL  
MELT IN YOUR HAND!

ALL FOUR: SO GOOD THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE  
A BIG BRASS BAND!

*(HANSEL and GRETEL knock POTZ and PANZ on the head with pots and pans. The two henchmen collapse.)*

HANSEL/GRETEL: ROLL UP! ROLL UP! AND SEE!

*(HANSEL and GRETEL stare at POTZ and PANZ on the floor, then at their pots and pans, then at each other.)*

HANSEL: Zat vorked better zan I ek-schpected it would.

GRETEL: Qvickly now! Ve mustn't vaste time.

HANSEL: You're right. Get zose eggs boiling, Gretel!

GRETEL: Eggs!

HANSEL: Ja, all zis talk about food has made me zo hungry!

GRETEL: Ve eat ven ve get home!

HANSEL: Since ven is zere food at home?

GRETEL: Have a marshmallow. *(She stuffs one in his mouth and starts to unlock the cage.)* Oh! Vere are ze keys to zis!

*(LADY MALEVOLA enters.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Holding them up.)* Right here, my dear.

HANSEL: Lady Malevola!

LADY MALEVOLA: Got it in one. Who said you were stupid?

HANSEL: Just about everyvun, actually.

LADY MALEVOLA: I knew those two idiots wouldn't keep you long, so I came back. Now, I'll eat you both! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

GRETEL: You really should seek help, you know.

LADY MALEVOLA: You're the one who needs help, my girl – and here in the spaces of the Dark Forest, no one can hear you scream.

HANSEL: I've heard zat somevere.

*(POTZ and PANZ revive.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: You two! I heard people moving in the forest. Go find them and bring them here. Now! *(She corners GRETEL and grabs her.)*

Now, stoke the fire, girl! It's Hansel fritters for lunch! Ha, ha, ha!

*(POTZ and PANZ exit. Lights down.)*

**END OF SCENE**

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**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act II

Scene 5 - A clearing near the cottage of the Witch

*(The BARON leads VIDOW, RUPERT and ADALICIA onstage, moving quietly and carefully.)*

VIDOW: Hello, children! *(Wait for the reaction.)* Zis is ze fifth time we do zis gag und I'm still catching some of you napping. On your toes, kiddies. *(She looks around.)* Zis forest is creepy. It gives me ze villies. *(Wait for it.)* Okay, zey're making up zeir own jokes now.

BARON: *(Putting his hands on her waist from behind.)* We must be quiet! We're getting very near to Lady Malevola's cottage.

VIDOW: I don't like zese voods. Zey make me all colley-wobbley.

BARON: Yes, I can feel her quiver.

VIDOW: Is zat vat you're doing? Hands off.

RUPERT: I must say there does seem to be some malevolent aura in these woods.

VIDOW: I'm sorry. Zat vas ze sausage from lunch.

ADALICIA: I've never been this far into the woods. I have to say I'm frightened.

RUPERT: Let me put my arm around you.

ADALICIA: To protect me?

RUPERT: All right. Let's say "protect."

VIDOW: Vy don't ve sing a song to keep ze monsters und vild animals away?

BARON: If you sang a song, it would keep everyone away.

VIDOW: Ve vill sing a song und keep a vatch for ze schcary baddies. *(To audience.)* You can help! If you see a schcary baddy, you let us know. You clap your hands like zis: *(Clap! Clap!)* Here ve go.

*(MUSIC: She'll Be Comin' Round The Mountain. As they sing, POTZ and PANZ come out from behind, grab the*

*BARON and run off with him.)*

ALL: IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, CLAP YOUR HANDS. *(CLAP, CLAP.)*  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, CLAP YOUR HANDS. *(CLAP, CLAP.)*  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY,  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, CLAP YOUR HANDS. *(CLAP, CLAP.)*

VIDOW: Vait a minute. Vat did you see? ... Vere? (*"Behind you!"*) Vell, ve'd better go look, hadn't ve? *(Walkaround.)* Zere's nossing zere. Vat vas it? A baddy! A vat? A baddy! No, it vasn't! Yes, it vas! Vell, ve'll have to sing it again zen, von't ve? Zis time, you shout out loud. Ah! Ah! Like zat.

*(This time, POTZ and PANZ grab ADALICIA.)*

ALL: IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, SHOUT OUT LOUD. *(SHOUT, SHOUT.)*  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, SHOUT OUT LOUD. *(SHOUT, SHOUT.)*  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY,  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, SHOUT OUT LOUD. *(SHOUT, SHOUT.)*

VIDOW: Vait a minute. Vat did you see? Vere? (*"Behind you!"*) Vell, ve'd better go look, hadn't ve? *(Walkaround.)* Zere's nossing zere. Vat vas it? A baddy! A vat? A baddy! No, it vasn't! Yes, it vas! Vell, ve'll have to sing it again zen, von't ve? Zis time, you sctomp your feet. *(Stomp. Stomp.)*

*(This time, POTZ and PANZ grab RUPERT.)*

ALL: IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, STOMP YOUR FEET.. *(STOMP, STOMP.)*  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, STOMP YOUR FEET.. *(STOMP, STOMP.)*  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY,  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, STOMP YOUR FEET.. *(STOMP, STOMP.)*

VIDOW: Vait a minute. Vat did you see? Vere? (*"Behind you!"*) Vell, ve'd better go look, hadn't ve? *(Walkaround.)* Zere's nossing zere. Vat vas it? A baddy! A vat? A baddy! No, it vasn't! Yes, it vas! Vell, ve'll have to sing it again zen, von't ve? Zis time, vave und yell!

*(This time, the bear comes in behind her.)*

VIDOW: IF YOU SEE A SCHCARY BADDY, VAVE UND YELL. *(WAVE, YELL.)*  
IF YOU SEE A SCHCARY BADDY, VAVE UND YELL. *(WAVE, YELL.)*  
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY,  
IF YOU SEE A SCHCARY BADDY, VAVE UND YELL. *(WAVE, YELL.)*

VIDOW: Vat vas it? A bear! Goodness! Vere vas it? Behind me? Are you telling me I've got a bear behind? *(Wait for reaction.)* I'd wash zat mind out vis soap if I vas your mum. Vell, ve'd better go look, hadn't ve? *(She turns and bumps into the bear, who sees her, howls and runs.)* How rude!

*(The BARON enters, running away from POTZ and PANZ.)*

BARON: Oh, you again!

VIDOW: Ve have to schtop meeting like zis. Let's meet at my place in twenty minutes.

BARON: They've captured the others. I got away, but we have to get back to town!

VIDOW: I'm not leaving my children in ze woods a moment longer. So, vich vay is zis vicked voman's vickiup?

BARON: What?

VIDOW: Which way is this wicked woman's wickiup?

BARON: That's easy for you to say. It's this way, but I'm too frightened to go there.

VIDOW: If zey ever put a price on your head – take it. *(She grabs him.)* Come on, ve go now! Come on!

*(They exit. A moment later, the horse comes trotting through.)*

**END OF SCENE**

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act II

Scene 6 - Inside the Gingerbread House

*(Enter LADY MALEVOLA, pulling HANSEL and GRETEL. HANSEL has been fattened up nicely.)*

HANSEL: But I don't want to go into ze cage.

LADY MALEVOLA: Why not? It's a lovely cage.

HANSEL: As cages go. *(LADY MALEVOLA shoves him in and closes the door.)* I can't breathe in here! I've got Santa Claus-trophobia.

LADY MALEVOLA: What's that?

HANSEL: Ze fear of being locked in a small cage at Christmas time.

LADY MALEVOLA: Stop acting the fool!

HANSEL: Who says I'm acting?

LADY MALEVOLA: How much have you fattened up? Hold out your finger.

HANSEL: Can't you see for yourself?

LADY MALEVOLA: I'm a little shortsighted. Let me feel your finger.

*(HANSEL starts to hold out his finger, but GRETEL quickly shoves a stick from the firewood into his hand and LADY MALEVOLA feels that instead.)*

LADY MALEVOLA: You don't seem to have fattened up at all.

HANSEL: No, it's zis cage! Now, if I vere a free-range lunch, I'd fatten right up.

LADY MALEVOLA: Free range lunch? There's no such thing as a free lunch. We'll eat you today, anyway. Now, girl. Do you go into the cage or do you help me bake your brother? *(GRETEL doesn't answer.)* Well?

GRETEL: I'm sinking, I'm sinking. Okay, I'll help.

LADY MALEVOLA: That's my girl.

HANSEL: Gretel!

GRETEL: Vat can I say? Sooner you zan me. Vat do we do first, oh Evil Vun?

LADY MALEVOLA: We heat up the oven, of course. Put some more wood in the stove.

GRETEL: Vatever you say, Qveen of ze Night. *(She opens the stove and stokes the fire. Looking in.)* Boy, zat's vun hot fire!

LADY MALEVOLA: Yes, it is. *(She raises her hands as if ready to push GRETEL in.)* Hold still now! *(She rushes at GRETEL.)*

HANSEL: *(From his cage.)* Gretel!

GRETEL: *(Suddenly rising and LADY MALEVOLA misses.)* So, do ve just toss him in whole or do ve dust him vis flour and add a few baby carrots and potatoes?

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Recovering.)* Oh, some vegetables would be perfect. They're in the bin over there. Can you get some, please?

GRETEL: Certainly.

*(Behind GRETEL's back, LADY MALEVOLA picks up a cleaver. GRETEL suddenly rises and turns, holding up vegetables.)*

Now, did you vant turnips or parsnips?

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Cleaver in the air.)* Oh, a little of both, perhaps.

GRETEL: *(Taking the cleaver and chopping at the vegetables.)* Okay.

LADY MALEVOLA: My dear, the oven should be hot now. Check it for me?

GRETEL: No problem.

HANSEL: *(From the cage.)* It'll take longer zan zat to heat. Fix or six hours, at least.

LADY MALEVOLA: Shut up, Pork Chop.

GRETEL: Zat's funny! Pork Chop – because he's going to BE vun!

LADY MALEVOLA: Check the oven, please.

GRETEL: Okay. *(She holds out her hands to the oven door.)* Yes, zat's pretty hot.

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, you have to get much closer than that.

GRETEL: *(Going right up to the oven.)* Yes, I can feel ze heat. It's ready.

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Positioning herself behind GRETEL.)* You have to open up the door to really gauge the heat, dear.

GRETEL: Open up ze door? *(She does so.)* Like ziss?

LADY MALEVOLA: Perfect! Now just stick your head in and feel the heat.

GRETEL: Schtick my head in? I don't underschtand.

LADY MALEVOLA: Just put your head into the oven.

GRETEL: Put my head into ze oven? How do I do zat? I'm much too short.

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Nastily.)* You're plenty tall enough for that ... dear.

GRETEL: Oh, no. My growss has been severely schtunted by ze malnutrition ve face every day here in fiftenss century Bavaria.

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Barely holding herself back.)* Just look inside the oven!

GRETEL: But how?

LADY MALEVOLA: Stupid girl! Walk to the oven, like this. *(She does.)* Put your hands on the edge, like this. *(She does.)* Lean over and put your head in.

GRETEL: *(Leaning the wrong way.)* Like ziss?

LADY MALEVOLA: No! Like this!

*(She pushes GRETEL out of the way and leans into the oven. GRETEL immediately boots her on the backside, then pushes her hard. LADY MALEVOLA falls, screaming, into the oven. GRETEL quickly slams the door shut.)*

GRETEL: You should have used a sermometer, oh Qveen of Schtupidity.

HANSEL: I don't vant to complain, but could you open ze cage?

GRETEL: Open ze cage? First, ve talk about my cooking.

HANSEL: I love your cooking! You are ze best cook in ze world except for mummy. I bet your boot soup is even better zan hers.

GRETEL: Zat's more like it.

*(She opens the cage door and HANSEL gets out.)*

HANSEL: Oh, my sacroiliac. *(A bell dings.)* Vat's zat?

GRETEL: A bell.

HANSEL: I mean, vy is zat?

GRETEL: You don't suppose?

*(They open the oven and remove a giant witch cookie.)*

HANSEL: I know I said your cooking vas very good – but I'm not touching zat.

GRETEL: Ve put it outside. Maybe ze birds vill eat it.

HANSEL: Not if zey're schmart. Ve need some food to take vis us.

GRETEL: Vell, zere's plenty here. Ve'll find somesing to put it in.

*(They open a closet and look in.)*

GRETEL: Hansel?

HANSEL: Ja, Gretel?

GRETEL: Would you say zat vas a chest full of gold und chewels?

HANSEL: All right. Zat vas a chest full of gold und chewels.

GRETEL: No! I mean ZAT! *(She points to a chest full of jewels.)*

HANSEL: Oh, zat! Ja, definitely gold und chewels. Gretel?

GRETEL: Ja, Hansel?

BOTH: Ve're rich!

*(They dance around the treasure. POTZ and PANZ run in and HANSEL and GRETEL freeze in fear.)*

GRETEL: Vat are you going to do to us?

HANSEL: Ve didn't mean to bake your boss up into a really ugly cookie.

GRETEL: Do ze vords "too much information" mean anyssing to you, Hansel?

POTZ/PANZ: *(After a tense pause.)* We're sorry! We're sorry! We didn't mean to do it! It was Lady Malevola – we were just a pair of poor bakers, but she bewitched us, but now we're free! Thank you!

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*(VIDOW, RUPERT, BARON and ADALICIA enter.)*

VIDOW: Children!

GRETEL: *(Running to hug her.)* Mutti!

HANSEL: *(Running to hug her.)* Vatti!

VIDOW: Hansel, I'm not your Vatti.

HANSEL: Says you.

GRETEL: Mutti, zere vas a schary bad vitch und she vanted to eat us but first she vanted to fatten up Hansel und she made Hansel eat marshmallows und ve vere going to have Hansel fritters und ve schlammed pots und pans on Potz und Panz und ve baked a vitchy cookie und ve found a chest full of gold und chewels.

VIDOW: Vell, as long as you had fun. Vait a minute! Gold und chewels?

HANSEL: Ja! Here! You see? *(He shows off the chest.)* I am sinking a schplit-level condo in Berlin und a BMW – for schtarters.

RUPERT: Wait a moment! Let me see that chest. *(He inspects it.)* As I thought! This is the Royal Treasury – found at last!

HANSEL: Ja, ve found it! Finders keepers!

RUPERT: And sometimes, finders weepers.

VIDOW: I sink ve give it back, Hansel.

RUPERT: Don't worry, my boy. There'll be a very handsome reward for you and your family.

BARON: What about me? I led you here. Don't I get to keep something?

RUPERT: Yes. Your head.

BARON: Fair enough.

ADALICIA: And where does this all leave me?

RUPERT: Back in Schplitzenpantz.

THE OTHERS: What! *(Or "Vat!", depending on your accent.)*

ADALICIA: I see. Back to being a bar-maid.

RUPERT: No. Back to gather your things. We are off to the castle to arrange a wedding.

THE OTHERS: A wedding! *(Or "A vedding!", depending on your accent.)*

ADALICIA: A wedding?

RUPERT: If you'll have me.

ADALICIA: If I'll have you? Oh ... well ... I ... *(To audience.)* What do you think?

VIDOW: Vat are you asking zem for? Marry ze prince or ze whole ending goes into ze dumpster!

ADALICIA: Oh, in that case – of course I'll marry you, Rupert.

*(They nearly kiss.)*

VIDOW: No time for zat, now. Back to Schplitzenpantz! Potz und Panz, bring ze pots und pans. Baron, you carry ze treasure. Hansel – *(Handing him a poker.)* – you carry ze Baron-schticker.

*(They all exit. A moment later, the pantomime horse comes trotting through. Lights down.)*

**END OF SCENE**

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

A Panto

Act II

Scene 7 - The Village of Schplitzenpantz

*(Enter the BARON and the VIDOW.)*

VIDOW: Vell, Baron, now zat you're nice, I'll remind you zat I'm schtill a widow.

BARON: There's probably a reason for that.

VIDOW: Oh, come on! Vere are you going to get anoizzer chance for a wife like me?

BARON: Well, there is that. All right, what do you say? Shall we get married?

VIDOW: At least. Zere might even be ze pitter-patter of little Barons, soon.

BARON: That's stretching it even for a panto.

*(Enter HANSEL and GRETEL, licking lollipops.)*

HANSEL: I am loving zis! Vis the money from ze revard, ve can have lollipops every day!

GRETEL: Or ve could put it into a tax-free educational savings plan to provide for our higher education at an accredited institution.

HANSEL: No, I go for ze lollipops.

VIDOW: Oh, Hansel. I've taught you everysing I know – und you're schtill ignorant.

*(RUPERT and ADALICIA enter, hand in hand.)*

But, zere is enough money for ze higher education und ze lollipops, too!

RUPERT: There is, of course, personal income tax, corporate income tax, excise tax and HST *(or similar local tax)* to be levied on that.

VIDOW: *(To audience.)* I hate ze fourteen hundreds. In six hundred years, zere will be no taxes, do you sink? *(To BARON.)* But, ven ve live in ze kessle, Baron, sink of ze luxuries. I could bathe in milk schtraight from ze cows.

HANSEL: Wouldn't you vant it pasteurized?

VIDOW: No, just up to here will do. Ze fun I'll have at ze kessle. I'll veer gowns by Renee of Paris.

BARON: And makeup by plaster of paris.

HANSEL: Und Gretel and I can eat until ve are piggy.

*(The horse trots on, sees RUPERT and rushes over to him.)*

RUPERT: Valiant! You're safe! I found you! *(The horse looks at him for a moment.)* All right. You found me. Here – *(Opening the door to VIDOW's house.)* – you go inside here and keep warm.

VIDOW: You can't keep a horse in ze hovel!

RUPERT: Why not?

VIDOW: Vat about ze mess all over ze floor?

RUPERT: Oh, he'll soon get used to that.

ADALICIA: So, Rupert – when does the honeymoon start? I mean, when do we get married? Not that I'm anxious, but “make hay while the sun shines.”

RUPERT: My delicious Adalicia. May I kiss your hand?

ADALICIA: Why, is my face dirty?

*(They finally kiss. The BARON puts his arms around VIDOW.)*

BARON: Am I the first man you've ever kissed?

VIDOW: Could be. Vere you in Dusseldorf 46 years ago?

BARON: I'll be the perfect man for you. You'll be surprised.

VIDOW: *(To audience.)* Not half as surprised as he'll be.

ADALICIA: Well, we're getting married. Hansel and Gretel will have food for the rest of their lives. Potz and Panz have gone back to baking. The Evil Baron has turned nice and will marry the Vidow. The Evil Witch has gotten her “just desserts”. It looks like everyone is going to live happily ever after.

RUPERT: So it seems. Say, this must be it, then.

ADALICIA: It must be.

VIDOW: No, it can't be.

HANSEL/GRETEL: It is! Zis is –

ALL: The End! (*Or “Ze End!”, depending on your accent.*)

*(The VILLAGERS all gather. MUSIC: This Is The End.)*

VILLAGERS: THIS IS THE END!  
WELL, MAYBE NOT THE END,  
IT'S THE BEGINNING – OF THE END.  
IT'S THE BEGINNING – OF THE END.

IT'S NOT THE END!  
IT'S CLEARLY NOT THE END  
'CAUSE WE'RE STILL SINGING – AT THE END.  
'CAUSE WE'RE STILL SINGING – AT THE END.

WE'VE AT LEAST ONE MORE VERSE TO GET THROUGH.  
AND THERE'S A BRIDGE IN THE MIDDLE, MAYBE TWO.  
BUT WHEN WE GET TO THE END, YOU WILL KNOW  
THAT IT'S THE END.

THIS IS THE END!  
WELL, IT'S CLOSER TO THE END.  
WE'RE CLOSER NOW TO THE END.  
WE'RE SO MUCH CLOSER TO THE END.

WE'RE NEAR THE END!  
THOUGH IT'S STILL NOT QUITE THE END  
WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE END.  
SO MUCH CLOSER TO THE END.

THIS IS THE LAST VERSE WE'LL SING AND WHEN WE DO,  
THERE'S STILL THE BRIDGE IN THE MIDDLE TO GET TO.  
BUT WHEN WE GET TO THE END, YOU WILL KNOW  
THAT IT'S THE END!

BRIDGE!

HANSEL /GRETEL: ZERE'S A MORAL TO ZIS SCHTORY:  
DON'T GO VAND'RING IN ZE VOODS.

VIDOW/BARON: IF YOU DO, YOUR MUM VILL VORRY,  
EVEN IF IT TURNS OUT GOOD.

RUPERT/ADALICIA: EVEN IF YOU FIND TRUE LOVE,  
DEEP WITHIN A WOODDED GROVE,

POTZ/PANZ: *(Entering.)* YOU MAY ALSO FIND YOUR END!

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Entering.)* WHEN WITHIN MY LAIR YOU WEND!

ALL: THIS IS THE END!  
WE'RE NEARLY AT THE END.  
IT'S NOT THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY, IT'S THE END.  
AND IF YOU WANTED MORE, WELL, SORRY, IT'S THE END.

PLEASE CONTACT AUTHOR FOR  
THIS IS THE END!  
WE'RE SO VERY NEAR THE END  
WE'LL ALL BE HAPPY EVER AFTER AT THE END.  
SO VERY HAPPY EVER AFTER AT THE END.

WE'VE JUST THIS FINAL SECTION,  
MAYBE EIGHT BARS AT THE BEST,  
AND THEN A LITTLE CODA  
(THAT'S THE PART THAT ENDS THE REST.)  
AND NOW WE'RE HERE  
AT THE END,  
WE REPEAT AND WE BUILD  
WE REPEAT AND WE BUILD!  
AND IT'S THE END!

The end!

**END OF PLAY**