

THE TAVERN AND THE STORYTELLER

A Musical Comedy

by

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ACT 1

Scene 1 Opening Night

It is early evening. The setting (1) is a medieval Tavern room with a stairway leading to an upper bedroom area. A STUFFED FISH [puppet] hangs on the wall above the fireplace and another behind the bar. There's a TABLE with a BOTTLE OF KETCHUP upon it, with 3 CHAIRS and another CHAIR by the FIREPLACE. On the bar post hangs a LARGE PICKLE ON A STRING and a SMALL BOW. There are exits to the kitchen, middens, front doorway and to the 'backyard' garden. The bedroom upstairs has a 'closet' exit.

(CUE Feelin' Fine MUSIC)

(The TAVERNKEEPER enters (2) stage left and walks along the Tavern's garden path to the back door. He carries a BASKET OF FISH) (3)

TAVERNKEEPER

(Singing)

It's been a long hard day for me, but the timing is right,
We've come a long hard way but we're doin' just fine,
I see the sun is goin' down, soon people will be comin' round,
But with fish to fry on the fire inside, I'll be feelin' fine,

I never thought the road I'm on would ever lead me here,
I look under my feet and it's paved with fish heads and beer,
There never seems to be time enough,
Sometimes it seems a bit too much,
But I just add a little song and before too long,
I'm feelin' fine,

I've watched the days and the years go rolling on by,
I've had plenty of things come around that made me laugh and
made me cry,
In the face of all of those things,
I found strength and love in this ring,
And the one through the years who has always been standing,
By my side, she's been by my side, and I'm feelin' fine,

Each day brings me a little more of bright sunshine,
Each night I have a place where I relax and unwind,
I finally oiled that squeaky door hinge,
So step on out and come on in,
There's laughter to be found with friends all around,
You'll be feelin' fine, feelin' fine, I'm feelin' fine,

(End MUSIC)

(As the music fades, the TAVERNKEEPER'S WIFE comes out from the kitchen doorway, DISHRAG in hand. She walks outside and snuggles up to him. She looks up and smiles)

WIFE

Those fish must be getting heavy.

TAVERNKEEPER

It's a beautiful night don't you think?

WIFE

Yes, (**Breathes deeply**) I just love the fresh salty air, the sounds of the sea, the peace and quiet.

TAVERNKEEPER

(**Sighs**) We don't seem to get too much of that anymore.

WIFE

Well, it didn't help that your "friends" just about burnt our home to the ground last fall! (**Turns, steps away**)
It was a hard winter rebuilding this place in the snow!

TAVERNKEEPER

It was those same friends who gave us food and a place to live! And they also helped us to rebuild our home too, don't forget THAT WIFE! (**Pauses**) Besides, it was only the dining room they burnt! (**Sheepishly**) A little...

WIFE

A LITTLE! What about the upstairs bedrooms and the front porch! And-- well, you really need to keep a better eye on them! I don't know why you ever let them come in here! (**Pauses defeatedly**) They've cost us so much!

TAVERNKEEPER

(**Reaches out to comfort his WIFE and drops the BASKET at his feet**)

But dear heart!

WIFE

(**Turns, plants foot in BASKET**)

Don't you dear heart me! I think we've had enough for the time being and I'll have no more excitement!

WIFE (Cont'd)

We've just rebuilt the place and tonight's our re-opening!
I won't have either YOU or your idiot FRIENDS ruining TONIGHT!

TAVERNKEEPER

But my sweet!

WIFE

We could barely afford the bits we had fixed! It took all our savings! We'll be lucky if we make enough for the taxes this year! (*Walks to garden*) At least my flower garden (4) came back! I wasn't sure with all the damage-- (*Pauses, steps through the window and turns to TAVERNKEEPER*) Where are my WINDOWS! How are we supposed to open tonight without WINDOWS!

(The WIFE storms through the door to stand in front of the TAVERNKEEPER, replanting her foot in the BASKET)

TAVERNKEEPER

Well you see, there was a mix up at the dock warehouse--

(The WIFE growls and raises her hands to strangle him)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

They'll be in on Thursday! I have the word of the Master Merchant!

(The WIFE storms through the door and stops at the kitchen door)

WIFE

And bring those fish in before they get dirty and go bad!
It's already dusk and the customers will be showing up soon and we'll need to get their suppers cooked!
I hope you managed to get enough wood for the fire! (*Exits*)

TAVERNKEEPER

(Sighs, picks up the BASKET, enters and puts it on the bar. He wipes the bar, pauses then wipes down the FISH)

Before they get dirty she says, go bad she says!
Well she can just go and--

WIFE

(Enters)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? Do you want to poison everybody?
Ever hear of germs? We're you born in a barn?

*(The WIFE grabs the FISH, throws it back
into the BASKET and grabs the BASKET and
shoves it at him)*

WIFE (Cont'd)

Take this into the kitchen and WASH them PROPERLY! *(Pauses,
points to cellar)* Did you remember to clean the middens before
you went off to get the fish?

TAVERNKEEPER

(Timidly)

Uh, no?

WIFE

How could you NOT forget to empty the MIDDENS! Did you expect
PAYING customers to have a wonderful meal and then go down there
to that reek? Well? Answer me! Did you put new bars of hand soap
on the sink?

TAVERNKEEPER

No.

WIFE

Did you replace the scented aromatic candles?

TAVERNKEEPER

No.

WIFE

How about clean hand towels?

TAVERNKEEPER

No.

WIFE

Change the basin water? Clean the mirror? Scrub the floor?
Sweep the stairs? Empty the wastebasket? Oil the door hinges?

TAVERNKEEPER

Yes!

WIFE

To the middens?

TAVERNKEEPER

(Defeatedly)

Uh, no.

WIFE

So in other words, nothing.

TAVERNKEEPER

(Hopeful)

Um, yes?

WIFE

What.

TAVERNKEEPER

(Timidly)

I changed the roll?

(WIFE fumes)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

Well-- I had to go and it was empty!

(The WIFE throws up her hands in exasperation, exits to cellar. The TAVERNKEEPER sighs, leans against the bar, then jumps)

WIFE (O.S.)

And don't forget to clean those FISH!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Sarcastically)

And don't forget to clean those fish! Well-- I won't!

(He puts the BASKET on the bar and walks over to the FISH above the FIREPLACE and dusts it. Then he dusts off the FISH on the wall behind the bar)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

THERE! All clean!

(Enter three FISHERMEN, BRUCE, WILLIS and PALMER, looking around)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

Ho boys! Welcome! Hi Bruce!

BRUCE

Hello mate!

TAVERNKEEPER

Hi Palmer!

PALMER

(Walks around)

Very nice! New lights too! I love the windows! It really opens up the place! *(Pokes head out the window)* Bit of a draft though.

TAVERNKEEPER

Well, there was a mix up with the shipping company, but the windows will be in next Thursday.

(PALMER & WILLIS sit. BRUCE pulls out a DECK OF CARDS. Seating order from left to right: PALMER, WILLIS and BRUCE nearest the bar)

BRUCE

(To TAVERNKEEPER)

It looks very nice indeed! Wonderful job! Uh, how's the little lady doing? Things calmed down a bit?

TAVERNKEEPER

Fine, just fine! Couldn't be better!

(BRUCE sits. The TAVERNKEEPER stands behind them)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

(To WILLIS)

Well, who's the new guy? I haven't seen you around here before!

BRUCE

This is Willis.

PALMER

He just hired on with us aboard the Pequod.

TAVERNKEEPER

Ah, so you want to be a fishing man eh? (*Claps WILLIS on the back*) Good for you!

WILLIS

Well, I actually think of myself as being a whaling man but I want to work my way up to it slowly. I used to be a bard in my younger days you know!

TAVERNKEEPER

Really? Um, just how old are you?

WILLIS

Nineteen.

TAVERNKEEPER

Oh, ok then. Well, what can--

WILLIS

I used to be quite good too.

TAVERNKEEPER

Wonderful! Now can I get you boys something to--

WILLIS

I always felt everything should have its own theme music. That's one of the reasons I wanted to be a whaling man! So I could write a nice adventurous piece of music for when we went whaling. You know-- something like--

*(Hums a tune pumping his hands in the air.
BRUCE and PALMER grab his arms)*

TAVERNKEEPER

Indeed. Well it's still nice to meet you anyway Willis. Now, what can I get for you boys? A drink before you head home to the little women or--

WILLIS

Oh, I'm not married.

TAVERNKEEPER

Really? Couldn't tell. Well! How about a bit of hot supper then? It must have been a long hard day on the sea.

BRUCE, WILLIS & PALMER

Supper!

TAVERNKEEPER

Wonderful! Now, we have a new menu to go along with the new building! The old one was boring and unimaginative so the Wife made some changes. As she never liked my cooking, well, she took over that too.

(The FISHERMEN mumble and decide what to have for supper)

WIFE (O.S.)
(Screeching)

HUSBAND!

BRUCE, PALMER & TAVERNKEEPER

The WIFE!

(The TAVERNKEEPER ducks behind the bar. BRUCE & PALMER duck under the TABLE. WILLIS sits confused)

WILLIS
What was THAT!?

BRUCE
Get down, GET DOWN!

PALMER
Hide you FOOL!

(BRUCE & PALMER pull WILLIS under the table. The WIFE's head appears from the cellar and strains of the theme music to Jaws (5) begins to play - Duh-DUH - The WIFE steps through the curtains - Duh-DUH - Her hands are behind her back, she steps forward - Duh-DUH)

WIFE
(Casually)
Oh, Husband--

(The WIFE stalks to the bar as the music tempo builds and stops when she arrives at the bar. She screams at the orchestra)

WIFE (Cont'd)

Now listen you! That's blatant copyright infringement and I'll have none of that in my house!

TAVERNKEEPER

Yes dear? You wanted something?

WIFE

(Holds up an EMPTY TOILET PAPER ROLL)

See this?

TAVERNKEEPER

Yes?

WIFE

(Holds up a FULL TOILET PAPER ROLL)

See this?

TAVERNKEEPER

Uh, yes?

WIFE

Well? What do you have to say for yourself?

TAVERNKEEPER

Um, I'd use the full one?

(Growling, she turns and spies the FISHERMEN. She places the ROLLS on the bar and peeks under the TABLE)

WILLIS

If we don't move, maybe she won't see us!

WIFE

(Casually)

Hello boys.

FISHERMEN

Hello.

WIFE

Just what, may I ask, are you doing under my table? (6)

(The FISHERMEN stutter reasons for being under the TABLE)

WIFE (Cont'd)

Wouldn't you be more comfortable above the table?

(They stutter more reasons why they would be better above the TABLE)

WIFE (Cont'd)

Perhaps even sitting in a chair would help.
We have chairs you know.

(The FISHERMEN stutter more reasons why they would be better in CHAIRS)

WIFE (Cont'd)

(Stands & kicks at FISHERMEN)

Then get up! Get up! GET UP or GET OUT! *(Address's husband as she points at the FISHERMEN who sit)* THIS is what I meant about having a nice quiet evening! THIS is what happened every night! This lunacy! These maniacs! These-- *(Pauses, notices WILLIS)*
Who are YOU!

WILLIS

Uh, Willis ma'am?

WIFE

Ah, another one of my husband's mooching friends I suppose?
(Sarcastically to TAVERNKEEPER) Oh don't worry about me mate!
I'll throw you a few coppers next payday! We're best buds and all that! *(To FISHERMEN)* Well, your friendship doesn't pay MY BILLS!

TAVERNKEEPER

Wife! That's no way to talk to our customers! *(Moves to WILLIS)*
What will this new lad think? You want him going round saying bad things about us?

WIFE

Well, I suppose your right husband. I'm sorry young man, it's been a long rough day and well, with it being our first night since, well, since--

TAVERNKEEPER

(Moves to and holds his WIFE)

It's ok now dear, it's all better now! We're open again and look! *(Points to the FISHERMEN)* We've got paying customers!

WILLIS

(To BRUCE)

Pay? Money? I don't have any money! I just started working and I get paid every two weeks! And that's not for another two weeks!

WIFE

What? What was that you said?

BRUCE

NOTHING! Because-- um, because we're going to pay for his, his--

PALMER

Supper! Yes! And we're going to leave a big tip too!

(BRUCE growls at PALMER)

PALMER

(Shrugs)

What?

WIFE

Well, ok then.

(The WIFE grabs the ROLLS from the bar and heads toward the kitchen)

WILLIS

(To WIFE)

Thank you for supper ma'am!

WIFE

(Turns slowly to look at WILLIS, strain on her face)

Your welcome. *(Exits)*

WILLIS

(Yells to WIFE)

You have wonderful theme music too! (7)

(BRUCE and PALMER beat on WILLIS. SCREAMS and CRASHING PANS come from the kitchen)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1

Scene 2 The Storyteller

PALMER

You idiot! Keep your trap shut! Hasn't there been enough yelling already?

TAVERNKEEPER

(Laughing)

I think you should wait a bit before you order!

PALMER

How about a round then?

TAVERNKEEPER

Wonderful! I'll be right back! *(Exits to kitchen)*

WILLIS

(Sees the BOW and PICKLE with a LONG STRING attached to it hanging on the bar post)

Nice bow! But what's the pickle for? That's an odd place for a pickle! Shouldn't a pickle be in the kitchen?

BRUCE

Oh no! Not THAT pickle! Its part of a game you see. But don't worry about it Willis, your MUCH too young to play!

WILLIS

I am not! How is it played? Do you spin it?

PALMER

Maybe later, after some supper.

BRUCE

After a few drinks at least!

(The TAVERNKEEPER enters placing the MUGS on the TABLE. BRUCE and PALMER sit and with greedy looks pick up their MUGS and drink. WILLIS doesn't)

BRUCE

Well, what's the matter boy? DRINK UP!

(BRUCE and PALMER resume drinking)

WILLIS

Well, you see, I uh, well, I've never had ale before! (8)

(BRUCE and PALMER spit out their ALE)

PALMER

Dammit boy! Don't EVER say such a foul thing as THAT when someone's in the middle of his drink!

WILLIS

Sorry, but I haven't!

BRUCE

Well, in that case--

(BRUCE and PALMER nod at each other. They shove their MUGS towards WILLIS)

PALMER

(Stands)

It's our sworn duty as members of the sacred brotherhood of fishermen to, uh-- to, to--

BRUCE

(Stands)

To correctly induct you into one of our secret, uh--

PALMER

Ceremonies! Yes! It's a long standing tradition for any new crewmember to, to--

BRUCE

To have the first round before anybody else can have a drink!

(PALMER and BRUCE nod and then sit)

WILLIS

Really? Wow, that's awfully nice of you guys!
I guess this means I'm now an official member of the crew!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Laughs & wipes up the mess)

Your lucky the rest of the crew isn't here tonight!

(BRUCE and PALMER urge WILLIS to drink up. WILLIS drains the MUGS and slams the MUG on the TABLE)

(BRUCE and PALMER cheer WILLIS and order more ALE. The TAVERNKEEPER exits with MUGS. Enter the STORYTELLER, a wearied looking fellow in a WELL WORN ROBE tied with a LENGTH OF ROPE. He holds a WOODEN STAFF and has a LARGE SACK slung over his shoulder. He puts the SACK under the bar and looks around and greets the FISHERMEN)

STORYTELLER

(Sits in the CHAIR by the FIREPLACE and puts his STAFF against the wall)

Ah, my tired bones! *(Yells to kitchen)* Tavernkeeper! A round if you please! (9)

TAVERNKEEPER

(Enters with MUGS)

Master Storyteller! It's been a long time! A long time! What brings you around here?

STORYTELLER

Oh just making my rounds through the kingdom picking up a story here and a story there.

WILLIS

Stories! Do any have theme music to go with them because if you don't I can come up with something that might work! I'm quite good you know, I was a bard in my younger days--

BRUCE

(Claps his hand over WILLIS' mouth)

Don't mind him Master Storyteller, he's young and just learning how to hold his ale.

WILLIS

Yeah! And I'm gonna play pickle too!

STORYTELLER

(Chuckling)

Are you sure he's old enough? It's quite dangerous for a novice you know. Does he even know how it's played? *(Sighs)* Well, let's have a look shall we? (10)

(Stands and groans. He grabs WILLIS' head and looks him in the eye, tilts his head back and forth finally looking in his ear. He shakes his head sadly)

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

I don't know. I think he needs a lot more to drink before he plays! (*Nudges Willis*) Just to be safe you know! (*Leans over, whispers to WILLIS*) It helps with the reflexes!

WIFE

(*Enters*)

Master Storyteller! It's wonderful to see you again!
How have you been? Keeping ahead of the tax collectors I hope?

STORYTELLER

(*Moves to and kisses her hand*)

Ah, my dear lady, you look absolutely ravishing! Why I think you actually look younger than when last we met! I heard about your troubles with the tavern. I am deeply sorry for it, but I am glad (*Waves arm encompassing the room*) that it is all well!

BRUCE

It's certainly cleaner.

(*The WIFE glares at BRUCE and turns back to the STORYTELLER*)

STORYTELLER

(*Moves to window*)

And there's a nice breeze as well! (*Passes hand through window*)
Hmm, interesting.

WIFE

(*Embarrassed*)

Yes, well, we're having specially made windows put in.
They'll be in on, on-- (*Turns to the TAVERNKEEPER*)

TAVERNKEEPER

Next Thursday.

WIFE

Yes! Only the best for our customers! Huge CLEAN windows!
With my beautiful flower garden in full view! (*She leans closer to him*) It helps with the digestion! (*Wipes a spot on the window with her DISHRAG*) There, perfect! Now you just stay right here and I'll be right back with your food!

(*She heads for the kitchen, stops and grabs her husband around the neck*)

WIFE (Cont'd)

Just imagine! He'll have the best supper ever and he'll tell everybody for miles around and then they'll be beating down our door to get in here! (**Exits**)

STORYTELLER

(**Bewildered**)

But I never ordered anything! (**Sits**)

(**The FISHERMEN laugh and then stop as the WIFE enters**)

WIFE

(**Enters, To STORYTELLER**)

I'm so sorry!

STORYTELLER

(**Stands, waves dismissively**)

That's quite alright my dear, I've already eaten. Maybe in a few hours, after I've had a bit of a rest. Then I'll have your best dish! (**Sits**)

(**The WIFE curtsies and exits. The FISHERMEN finish their drinks**)

WILLIS

I've never heard a storyteller tell a story before, that is except my mother, and she wasn't much of a storyteller, at least with the stories she told me. There was one about--

PALMER

A run on sentence perhaps?

BRUCE

How about another round of ale?

WILLIS

(**To BRUCE**)

That sounds like a strange story?

BRUCE

No.

WILLIS

No?

BRUCE

No. (*Beckons to the TAVERNKEEPER*) Another round of ale please.

WILLIS

Huh?

BRUCE

For us-- as in the kind we drink.

(*TAVERNKEEPER gathers then exits to the kitchen with the MUGS*)

WILLIS

Oh! I see!

STORYTELLER

(*Stands*)

Well, I guess our young friend won't let me rest until I've told him a story. (*Pauses*) Hmm, let me think.

(*Cue STORYTELLER'S SONG MUSIC*)

WILLIS

Theme music!

PALMER

Quiet! He's thinking.

STORYTELLER

(*Singing*)

I'm just a Storyteller, I go from town to town,
I've heard all sorts of things, oh yes, I've been around,
I've heard all sorts of tales, some are sad and some are true,
Everyone has a story to tell, no matter what they think,
Everyone has a story to tell, even if it stinks,

So if you want to hear a story, then sit back and listen close,
But before I tell a story, tell me what interests you the most,
I'm ready and I'm able, all you have to do is ask,
Do you want me to talk about heroic deeds of old,
Or to tell of far away lands where things are bought and sold,

BRUCE, WILLIS & PALMER

(Singing)

We'd all like a story, something with pizzazz,
A new kind of story, something we've never had,
A funny kind of story, one that's sad and one that's true,
Can you put all that in a story, is what we ask of you,

STORYTELLER

(Singing)

Well perhaps a tale of cities floating high up in the clouds,
Where people all have wings, or maybe dark tales from
underground,
There's all sorts of legends that just might interest you,
How about a dissertation on a theory about stars,
Or maybe an exciting tale about invading aliens from mars,

A story of a dragon, or creatures from the sea,
Maybe one about mermaids, well, what'll it be,
I don't have all night, so please make up your mind,
The dawn will soon be here and I'll need to get away,
If the IRS finds me here, there's taxes they'll make me pay,

BRUCE, WILLIS & PALMER

(Singing)

Can you tell us a story, that will make us smile,
That will ease all our aches, if only for awhile,
Can you help us to forget, the pains from our day,
Can you tell us a story, to make the bad things go away,

STORYTELLER

(Singing)

Well I've got a story that happened not too long ago,
It may sound somewhat familiar, maybe, I don't know,
It's one I've never told before, but it comes from the heart,
It's got many of the things you want, and this is how it
starts,

(End MUSIC)

*(TAVERNKEEPER enters with mugs and places
them on the table then goes behind the bar)*

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

Hmm, there was a tavern just like this, with fishermen just like
you. And the Tavernkeeper and his Wife had a young beautiful
daughter who's name was Lily. (11)

(The STORYTELLER waves his arm towards the front door. LILY, a young pretty girl on the verge of womanhood enters)

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

And here she is.

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1

Scene 3 Lily

(LILY goes to the TAVERNKEEPER. Enthralled, WILLIS downs his ALE and stands up with arms out and attempts to go to her)

WILLIS

Ooh, she's pretty!

PALMER

(Pulls WILLIS back)

Whoa fella! She's much too young for you!

LILY

Hello father!

TAVERNKEEPER

Hello sunshine, have fun today with your friends?

LILY

Yes father!

TAVERNKEEPER

Good! Because you're late again and you know we were opening tonight! Please go into the kitchen and help your mother and take this basket of fish in too, they need to be cleaned!

(LILY frowns at the FISH and turns seeing the FISHERMEN)

LILY

(Happily with a bow)

Hello gentlemen!

WILLIS

(To BRUCE)

Wait a minute! I'm too young to play with a pickle *(Points to pickle)* but I'm too old to play with *(Points to LILY)* her?

BRUCE

(Inspecting his mug)

Yup, that's about right!

(WILLIS slumps in his CHAIR, takes BRUCE'S MUG and with a longing look at LILY, drains it and hands it back to BRUCE who frowns & upends the mug)

PALMER

You wouldn't like her anyway Willis!

WILLIS & LILY

Why not?

PALMER

Because she's not only too young but she's quite a silly little girl who prefers to play with her silly little friends.

(Curious, LILY moves closer)

BRUCE

Doesn't she run around playing the helpless princess or was that some other silly child?

LILY

I'm not a child! I'll be 17 very soon! And I could be a princess too someday! I've calculated the odds and there's a distinct possibility that I could marry someone--

PALMER

Scare someone you mean!

BRUCE

Palmer! 'tis only her future husband that should be scared!

PALMER

(Grabs WILLIS)

Look out Willis! The almost seventeen year old someday princess might scare you as her husband!

BRUCE

Don't you worry yourself about her Willis. She'll have another fairy tale to dream about! Just give her a few minutes to change her mind!

PALMER

Aye Willis! She flips back and forth so much between one thing and the next, *(Flails arms)* I'm surprised she doesn't get dizzy and fall right over! *(Falls backwards in CHAIR to be caught by STORYTELLER)*

LILY

(*To TAVERNKEEPER*)

Father! (*Singing*) They say I'm

(*Cue DREAM ABOUT TOMORROW MUSIC on the word
'FLIPPANT'*)

LILY (Cont'd)

flippant!

BRUCE & PALMER

(*Speaking bored*)

Yes she's flippant,

LILY

(*Singing*)

They say I'm rude!

BRUCE & PALMER

(*Speaking bored*)

Yes she's rude,

LILY

(*Singing*)

They talk behind my back, but I'm no fool,
What they don't understand is I want more,

BRUCE

(*To Willis speaking*)

She wants what everybody has,

PALMER

(*To Willis speaking*)

Just not the poor,

LILY

(*Singing*)

I want silk curtains, that blow in the breeze,
I want time to waste as much as I please,
Like a princess in stories of old,
I'll have a knight in shining armor to hold,

I'll have rings of silver, not wood or tin,
I'll have satin dresses soft against my skin,

(LILY beckons WILLIS with her finger and he tries to go to her but BRUCE & PALMER make him sit back down)

LILY (Cont'd)

(Singing)

Servants will hasten to my beck and call,
I deserve more than I have,

(Spreads her arms wide)

I want it all!

I can dream about tomorrow,

BRUCE & PALMER

(Deadpan)

Tomorrow.

LILY

(Singing)

I can wish for my dreams to come true,
Why should I rein in my dreams,

BRUCE & PALMER

(Deadpan)

Dreams.

LILY

(Singing)

For those everyday things,

BRUCE & PALMER

(Deadpan)

Things.

LILY

(Singing)

That will wind up just making me blue,

BRUCE & PALMER

(Feign concern)

She's oh so blue!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Shakes finger at LILY speaking)

What you need, is a really good spanking,
That will bring tears to your eyes and redden your behind,

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

(Singing)

Can you not see all the things you have around you,

BRUCE & PALMER

(Speaking)

We're surprised you've managed to survive all this time!

(Singing)

Young lady, it's nice to dream,

(Speaking)

But what you ask is too much to believe,

(Singing)

Tomorrow will be here in good time,

Today is more than enough for anyone, so keep this in mind,

You can dream about tomorrow,

But don't let it get in the way,

Tomorrows dreams just might come true,

But only if you start working on them today,

TAVERNKEEPER

(Singing)

It's ok, to dream of tomorrow,

After all, who knows what it will bring,

Maybe we'll all be rich and win the lottery,

FISHERMEN

Yeah!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Speaking)

I don't know, who's to know,

WILLIS

(Speaking)

Who can say?

LILY

(Singing)

I know my dreams, about tomorrow,

Will all come true for me some day,

And I'll have all those things, like a bird on the wing,

I'll take flight and soar far, far away,

(BRUCE & PALMER flap their arms and whistle like birds)

LILY

(Singing)

If you don't mind! I'll dream as I please,
Keep your opinions to yourself and leave me be,
Someday you'll be sorry when I'm gone,
Who will you have then, to pick on,

(End MUSIC)

*(LILY storms off into the kitchen without
the BASKET of FISH)*

TAVERNKEEPER

(Sighs)

Oh well, why should I have expected anything different?

(The FISHERMEN look towards the STORYTELLER)

BRUCE

That was wonderful! Is there any more to the story?

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1

Scene 4 The Baron's Son

STORYTELLER

A moment please, I'm thinking. Ah, yes! I remember now!

(He gestures to the front door. CADUCIAS' guards - DIBBLES and RITZ enter. RITZ holds the door open)

DIBBLES

Attention peasants! Rise for the Baron's son, his high lord CADUCIAS--

BRUCE & PALMER

Bless you!

DIBBLES

Excuse me! That's my part. Only a loyal bodyguard to his high munificence is authorized to announce his arrival!

BRUCE

What?

RITZ

Do you know him?

BRUCE

Who?

RITZ

Blaeshue!

BRUCE

Well, thank you, but I didn't sneeze!

RITZ

What?

PALMER

You said "bless you", but he (*Points to BRUCE*) didn't sneeze! Why would you say "bless you" if he didn't sneeze?

RITZ

(Points to the door) But, but-- the Baron's son!

BRUCE

Oh, no one would bless him!

RITZ

No, the Baron's son Blaeshue!

BRUCE

Oh I doubt Blaeshue would bless me or anyone else!

RITZ

What?

DIBBLES

Ahem! Attention peasants! Presenting his HIGH LORD CADUCIAS--

BRUCE & PALMER

BLESS YOU!

BRUCE

You REALLY should see a doctor! It sounds like your coming down with a cold!

DIBBLES

But I didn't sneeze!

PALMER

(To RITZ)

Didn't it sound to you like he just sneezed?

BRUCE & PALMER

(Quietly 'sneeze' using CADUCIAS' name)

Caducias, Caducias, Caducias,

RITZ

(Thinking)

Well-- now that you mention it.

DIBBLES

(Smacks RITZ)

Shut up you idiot!

PALMER

You boys really look tired. Why don't you come on in and have a seat next to the warm cozy fire and have a nice mug of ale!

(BRUCE and PALMER hold out their CHAIRS)

DIBBLES

Well, I don't know. We--

RITZ

Come on brother! It'll be fun! It's been a long time since anyone's invited us to anything!

(RITZ grabs DIBBLES arm letting the front door slam shut)

DIBBLES

Well, maybe for just a moment. A quick drink before--

CADUCIAS (O.S.)

What in the blazes are you DOING? Who shut the door?

DIBBLES & RITZ

(Alarmed)

CADUCIAS!

BRUCE & PALMER

BLESS YOU!

(The FISHERMEN sit. DIBBLES and RITZ rush to open the door. CADUCIAS enters holding his nose brushing aside his two HENCHMEN who stand at attention)

CADUCIAS

Well, well, well, what have we here?

RITZ

(Leans forward)

It's a tavern my lord!

CADUCIAS

(To RITZ)

I KNOW it's a tavern you IDIOT!

BRUCE

Where did you get those two CADUCIAS?

CADUCIAS

Well, if you MUST know, my usual men are out sick. So I had to call the temp agency.

RITZ

(Smiling, points to himself and DIBBLES)

We're twins!

(DIBBLES nods in agreement)

CADUCIAS

(To RITZ)

Idiot! Get back and shut up!

TAVERNKEEPER

What brings you to my humble home this evening my lord?
Some ale? Some fine food perhaps?

PALMER

(Stands, pulls out chair, gestures to fireplace)

Maybe you'd like to sit IN the nice cozy fire?

CADUCIAS

(To PALMER)

How very peasantry of you. Your sharp comedic wit always ceases to amaze me. *(To TAVERNKEEPER)* I have given you the honor of stopping by in order to see your daughter.

TAVERNKEEPER

Lily? Why? Did she do something wrong?

BRUCE

Like step on your precious lawn?

WILLIS

Oh! I know! I know! Lily wandered by his window and he's fallen madly in love with her!

(BRUCE & PALMER laugh and stop as they see CADUCIAS smiling)

TAVERNKEEPER

(Stunned)

You, you can't be serious!

CADUCIAS

Indeed, such a thing has happened.

TAVERNKEEPER

Sir, you can't truly be serious! She is but a young lass!

CADUCIAS

Oh but I am serious! I fell madly in love with her from the moment I saw her!

(DIBBLES & RITZ chuckle, CADUCIAS quickly silences them with a glare)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Besides, she-- Lily you said? Lily is the prettiest girl in the province! *(Leans towards TAVERNKEEPER)* I'm sure she would like to live in the castle on the hill don't you think? And there's also the various amenities to being the wife of the Baron's son, which of course, *(Pats the stunned TAVERNKEEPER's arm)* would extend to her immediate family--

TAVERNKEEPER

(Dazed and mumbling to himself)

Married to the son of the Baron, money, power...

(CADUCIAS snaps his fingers under the TAVERNKEEPER's nose jolting him from his dreaming)

TAVERNKEEPER

I'll go get her at once! *(Exits to kitchen)*

CADUCIAS

(Turns to the FISHERMEN)

It's good to be the King!

BRUCE

Your not the King and I doubt you'll even make Baron someday!

CADUCIAS

Indeed, I suppose you haven't heard? Well listen closely. Tomorrow, my father will announce to the people that the King is recruiting additional men for the army to fight off the advances across our borders by our neighboring kingdom.

PALMER

We've been out to sea for some time and we've just returned. What war?

WILLIS

Oh yes! He's right you know! The other kingdom has been attacking our borders the past few weeks. There's been all sorts of rumors!

(The FISHERMEN look to the TAVERNKEEPER for assurance)

TAVERNKEEPER

I'm afraid it's true lads. Our taxes have been going up of late to help pay for extra men for the army.

CADUCIAS

You're lucky my father has been so lenient with the Kings taxes! I wouldn't be so easy on you! I'd prefer to increase taxes for new roads and more border patrols and to--

BRUCE

Fill your own coffers?

CADUCIAS

(Turns and points to BRUCE)

EXACTLY! *(Realizes his blunder)* Ex--actly the kind of thinking that got us into this predicament in the first place! The King is to blame for all our troubles because of his lack of commitment to our protection!

PALMER

Well, your father seems to agree with him! You seem to forget that we are a peaceful nation! From what you say, the other kingdom has attacked us and--

CADUCIAS

My father is a weak minded fool! And a court patsy just like the rest of those--

BRUCE

You're an idiot! How can you possibly believe--

TAVERNKEEPER

(Enters with his WIFE and LILY)

Here she is my lord!

(CADUCIAS takes her hand and kisses it. LILY and her mother look stunned)

CADUCIAS

It is wonderful to finally meet you my lady.

(The WIFE looks distrustfully at CADUCIAS)

LILY

Uh, oh, well, I, uh--

CADUCIAS

(Bows)

Your welcome. Your probably wondering why I have called upon you today?

LILY

Um-- yes?

CADUCIAS

I have looked at you from afar and have seen your beautiful--
(Looks at her leeringly) angelic form lighting up our wonderful town of late and I must say that my heart has been caught in your web!

WIFE

More like a spider's web!

TAVERNKEEPER

Hush WIFE!

BRUCE

And he's the spider!

PALMER

Beware little angel for his web is strong!

CADUCIAS

(To FISHERMEN)

Shut up fools! *(Turns to LILY)* As I was saying, my heart--

BRUCE

Is black and shriveled.

CADUCIAS

(To FISHERMEN)

Fine then, have your bit of fun while you can. *(To LILY)*
Pay them no heed my dear for you see, I have fallen madly in love with you. *(Kneels)* And I hope and pray that, with the blessing of your parents-- *(Looks at the TAVERNKEEPER & WIFE)*
I may be honored--

WIFE

(Horrorified)

Oh no!

CADUCIAS
(*To LILY*)

To have your hand--

TAVERNKEEPER
Say it! Say it!

WIFE
Nooo!

CADUCIAS
--in lawful marriage!

TAVERNKEEPER
(*Jumping*)
Yes, yes, yes!

(*LILY, BRUCE & PALMER looked shocked,
The WIFE slumps to the floor*)

WILLIS
How beautiful! I once saw this happen with my aunt Marie who--

BRUCE & PALMER
SHUT UP!

BRUCE
Is this is one of your stupid jokes Blaeshue? Don't you have anything better to do with your time than to ruin decent folks evenings with--

TAVERNKEEPER
Bruce! Quiet! All of you! Can't you see what a wonderful opportunity this is for us?

WIFE
WHAT? (*Stands*) Are you INSANE? What makes you think I'll allow our daughter to marry a snake like him!

TAVERNKEEPER
Hush dear! Don't you see that if Lily marries Caducias, we'll become part of the royal family and--

WIFE
(*Grabs LILY*)
There's more to life and love than MONEY!

BRUCE & PALMER

Yeah!

CADUCIAS

(Chuckling)

Love... *(Notices the others looking at him)* Yes, LOVE! Love is why I have fallen!

PALMER

(Stands)

Fallen is a good word to describe you, you black hearted snake!

(DIBBLES & RITZ draw their SWORDS. BRUCE and WILLIS stand)

CADUCIAS

Peace my friends! This is supposed to be a wonderful moment! How can you talk so in front of these fine ladies! And one soon to become my wife!

WIFE

She hasn't answered yet you DOG! How can you come in here and spout such obscenities to my child! She'd rather wed a dead skunk than the likes of you! Isn't that right my dear?

(LILY's mother looks at her for conformation and is shocked when LILY doesn't answer)

LILY

(Looks out at the garden confused)

I, I don't know. He offers much, and to live in a castle--

WIFE

Lily! You-- you can't really be considering his words! He's a good for nothing snake! He doesn't really love you! He just wants-- he just--

BRUCE

Listen to your mother child! She's done right by you so far and she's right this time. *(To CADUCIAS)* Alright Blaeshue, you've had your bit of fun-- *(Points to door)* Now BE OFF!

CADUCIAS

(Smiles, bows and waves his HENCHMEN towards the door)

Very well, but mark my words for they are true!

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

(*To LILY*)

Please think upon them for I hope to have an answer soon.

(*CADUCIAS, DIBBLES & RITZ exit. Everyone looks at LILY who stands silent. The FISHERMEN sit*)

WILLIS

Maybe there should have been some theme music? It would've been much nicer if--

EVERYBODY

SHUT UP!

TAVERNKEEPER

I must say-- it's not really as bad as all that! I know Caducias is a pig-headed, self-centered, ill-mannered, spoiled brat who never had to work a day in his life--

(*Everyone glares at him except LILY*)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

(*Frustrated*)

Oh come on! He's the Baron's SON! And he's RICH! (*Moves to LILY*)
Oh Lily! Can't you see? All those silly dreams you have can now come true!

(*The FISHERMEN noisily turn away from him*)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

(*To FISHERMEN*)

What? No one here wants to be rich?

(*Turns to WIFE who with a snort, takes LILY into the kitchen. Sighing, he follows*)

PALMER

(*To BRUCE*)

That wasn't a very good story.

BRUCE

(*To PALMER*)

Indeed, it was not!

PALMER

(*To STORYTELLER*)

I thought you were going to tell us a happy tale?

WILLIS

There was no theme music either!

(*BRUCE & PALMER pound on WILLIS*)

WILLIS (Cont'd)

Alright! Stop! STOP!

STORYTELLER

(*Laughing*)

Do you truly believe that I would tell such a tale and leave it unfinished? Have you no faith that such things cannot have a happy ending? Take heart my friends for the tale is not yet done! There just happens to be another who secretly lays claim to Lily's heart although she has yet to hear such eloquent words from him as Caducias'.

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1

Scene 5 The Story of Winkie Part 1

STORYTELLER

You see, the other heart that longs for Lily is one she well knows! (**Stands**) He is a young lad from the forest who's name is William although the locals always seemed to call him by some other name which escapes me at the moment-- (**Paces**) Let's see, how can I best describe him? Well, he's not much to look at and not very bright, but he has a good heart and--

WILLIS

Is he rich? Lily wants someone who's rich!

STORYTELLER

Oh NO! He's quite poor, I assure you! Yes, quite poor! He's teased constantly and, well-- let's just say he has a purpose in life and well-- Oh bother! (**The STORYTELLER points to the floor below**) Just look over there will you?

(SPOTLIGHT on center floor. Enter LILY's friends, BETHANY (15), WILLOW (14) & SARAH (13) onto the floor laughing and giggling followed by WILLIAM, a young boy on the verge of manhood. WILLIAM is dressed in OLD BUT NEATLY REPAIRED HAND-ME-DOWN CLOTHING, MESSED HAIR and looks quite unhappy. The GIRLS taunt him as they laugh)

WILLOW, BETHANY & SARAH

(Chanting)

Little boy, little boy in a torn muddy shirt! Little boy, little boy who lives in the dirt! The forest may and the forest might, let the little boy sleep in the trees tonight! (**They giggle**)

WILLIAM

Bugger off you bloated tarts! Go get blasted by a dragon or something!

SARAH

What brings you around here little Winkie boy?

WILLIAM

My names not--

WILLOW

Your names Snot? Like in-- Snot much? What a silly little name Snot! Is Snot your first or last name? (*The GIRLS laugh*)

(*SARAH & WILLOW tease & poke WILLIAM*)

SARAH

It's Snot Winkie wearing nice clean clothes,

WILLOW

It's Snot Winkie who ever washes his nose,

(*WILLIAM rubs his face to check for dirt, then scowls at being taken in*)

BETHANY

It's Snot Winkie who dresses to impress,

SARAH

It's Snot Winkie who, uh, um-- oh crud! (*Stomps her foot*)
I can't think of anything that rhymes!

BETHANY

(*Appraising WILLIAM's clothes*)

Well, it looks like Winkie Snot buying his clothes! I mean
(*Affects pompous attitude and dramatically walks around William*)
really Daahling! Where did you get that ridiculous attire?

WILLOW

(*Imitates Bethany*)

Oh indeed where! You must simply tell us!

SARAH

(*Appraises WILLIAM*)

Looks like he sewed some leaves and tree bark together with
skunk hair and lined it with mud and twigs!

BETHANY

Oh Sarah! You've gone and ruined the effect!

WILLOW

You always do that just as we get on a roll! You really must
learn to take your cues better!

BETHANY

Yes, you really need to pay more attention! Why we were just--

WILLIAM

Say, (*Taps BETHANY's shoulder*) excuse me-- Did you know that you're all just a bit loose (*Spins finger around temple in the universal insane gesture*) upstairs?

BETHANY

Well what brings you into this neck of the woods Winkie Snot? Squirrels steal your nuts? Bees steal your honey?

WILLIAM

Well, I uh-- HEY! It's none of your business where I go and what I do! I can go anywhere I want!

(*WILLIAM glances at the Tavern, the girls turn following his gaze*)

BETHANY

Oh, I see! Come round to catch a peek at Lily eh? Hope to catch her eye maybe? What, a dirty little twig like YOU?

SARAH

Listen buddy! You're just fooling yourself with (*Points thumb at Tavern*) that one! How could you ever think that Lily would even look at you twice?

WILLOW

(*To SARAH*)

It's once Sarah, look once, (*Waggles finger at SARAH*) not twice.

SARAH

Oh yeah! Well-- it could be twice! (*Pulls arm back holding imaginary rock*) Once to aim and twice! (*Makes throwing gesture*) --to make sure the rock hit!

BETHANY

GIRLS! Excuse me! (*Points to WILLIAM and makes "ahem" noises*)

WILLOW & SARAH

Oh yes! Right!

(*The GIRLS giggle and make kissing noises. WILLIAM charges them and they run off laughing. He turns to stare at the Tavern, walks toward it then turns back and looks at his clothes*)

WILLIAM

Oh, who am I kidding. (*Walks despondently away*)

(*The FISHERMEN turn to the STORYTELLER*)

BRUCE

That was him? He's the other love in Lily's life?

PALMER

A grubby boy from the forest! Surely Master Storyteller--

WILLIS

Well, why not?

(*BRUCE & PALMER looked shocked at WILLIS and start to argue with him*)

STORYTELLER

My friends! My FRIENDS! (*Interrupting the yelling*) Have I let you down yet? You saw there the lad as he is now, or was rather. I get confused sometimes! But like all of us, he is just one of many characters in this great big story we call life! Yes, even a scruffy little boy of humble beginnings can become something more than he first appears-- or believes!

WILLIS

But why did those girls call him Winkie and not William?

STORYTELLER

To answer that question, we'll need to go back a little further to when he was a babe. He used to go on long walks in the forest with his older sister Phoebe. She used to pull him around in a little red painted wagon his father made him. Yes! Those were happy times for the lad! Happy times indeed!

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1

Scene 6 The Fairy Godmother

(The STORYTELLER points out the window to the auditorium floor. A YOUNG GIRL - PHOEBE, appears pulling a LARGE DIRTY BLANKET. Upon the blanket sits a LARGE TODDLER - WILLIAM, with his thumb in his mouth, NAKED but for a BONNET and DIAPER holding a LARGE DEAD FISH. They come to a stop in the middle of the floor in the LIGHT at the BASE OF THE STAGE WALL. PHOEBE slumps to the ground exhausted. The FISHERMEN get up and place their hands up against the 'windows' for a better look)

WILLIAM

Pull, pull! (12)

PHOEBE

Oh, shut UP! Can't you see I'm tired? I've been pulling your worthless hide for miles!

WILLIAM

Pull! Pull! (*Pulls on PHOEBE's leg*) Pull! Pull! Pull Will'am, pull Will'am! (*He begins to cry*)

PHOEBE

(Sighs and gets up)

Oh very well, one more mile and then we're going home! And no more whining! You make me sick you know! You're almost ten years old! I don't know why I keep pulling you around like this! And that stupid fish of yours! Why couldn't you find a proper pet like a dog! All my friends make fun of me because of you!

WILLIAM

(Timidly)

Will'am luv pee-pee--

PHOEBE

PHOEBE! It's PHOEBE you dolt!

WILLIAM

Pee-pee luv Will'am?

PHOEBE

(Pointing to herself)

Phoebe! Phoebe! Why can't you talk like a normal nine year old!

(PHOEBE throws her arms up and screams in exasperation. WILLIAM starts to cry)

PHOEBE

There, there, don't cry, you can call me pee-pee.

WILLIAM

(Claps happily)

Yay! Pee-pee! Pee-pee! Pee-pee!

(PHOEBE glares at him)

WILLIAM

(Timidly)

Pee-pee luv Will'am?

(A TATTERED looking woman appears with a LONG STAFF topped by a GOLDEN SPATULA. She wears a TARNISHED TIARA and is held off the ground by two fairly well-built MEN in PANTS and VESTS with BELT and POUCH. They hold her aloft under her armpits. They make her look like she's flying. She has SMALL TATTERED WINGS on her back. She giggles and makes happy noises as she's flung through the air. Meet TRESAMAI - WILLIAM's Fairy Godmother)

PHOEBE

Of course I love you!

(They turn at the noise. WILLIAM looks amazed. PHOEBE screams and moves behind WILLIAM. TRESAMAI is carried before the children and gently lowered. The HENCHMEN stand silently at attention behind her. She hands her STAFF to her right HENCHMAN)

TRESAMAI

Hello my dear children! What a wonderful day for flying!

(TRESAMAI spins around arms flung wide. The HENCHMEN duck under her swinging arms)

WILLIAM
(*Grabs PHOEBE's arm*)

Pee-pee?

PHOEBE
Yes! I see it too!

(*TRESAMAI stops spinning*)

TRESAMAI
Now, which one of you would be William?

(*WILLIAM and PHOEBE quickly point to the other*)

TRESAMAI
Oh my! I wasn't told there would be TWO of you!

PHOEBE
(*Stuttering*)

Who? What?

TRESAMAI
Of course dear! Exactly what I was thinking! And such a good point too! You must be very good in school! Such a smart girl!

PHOEBE
Just who ARE you?

TRESAMAI
Why I'm young William's Fairy Godmother!

PHOEBE
(*Deadpan*)

What--

TRESAMAI
Yes dear! I'm Tresamai, his Grade 3 (*Holds out 3 fingers*) Fairy Godmother,

(*TRESAMAI leans over WILLIAM waving her 3 fingers and begins to tickle WILLIAM and make baby talk at him*)

PHOEBE

I heard you the first time! You mean to say that HE-- (**Points to WILLIAM**) rates a Fairy Godmother? I don't believe it! Why? What did he ever do to rate a Fairy Godmother!?!

TRESAMAI

(Ignoring PHOEBE)

Ah William! You're such a good little boy, yes you are! What's your name? What's your name? Can you tell me your name you cute little boy?

WILLIAM

W, wi, wi, winkie-hee, hee, hee! Winkie! (**Slaps her hand away**) Winkie! Sheesh lady!

(Picks up his FISH which he dropped while being tickled and inspects it for damage. He points at TRESAMAI)

WILLIAM (Cont'd)

Not the mommy!

(With a HUMPH!, WILLIAM clutches his DEAD FISH tightly and stuffs his thumb in his mouth. TRESAMAI smiles and looks at the audience)

TRESAMAI

He's so cute! (**To PHOEBE**) Well, dear, if you must know, I was sent to bring William a special present! (**Holds out STAFF**)

PHOEBE

A stick? You want to give him a stupid walking stick? He's so lazy, I have to pull his fat ass around on this stupid blanket!

TRESAMAI

No my dear! His gift from above is this. (**Pulls off the SPATULA**) I've been ordered to give this to him. He has an important future ahead of him and this may come in handy someday. (13)

PHOEBE

A spatula? Your giving him a stupid spatula?

(The STORYTELLER puts on sunglasses)

TRESAMAI

Oh no my dear child! This is not just an ordinary everyday spatula but-- *(Pauses for effect)* The Golden Spatula!

(The SPATULA LIGHTS up with a BLINDING LIGHT (14) The rest of the auditorium LIGHTS should DIM every time the GS LIGHTS up. The HENCHMEN sing out in unison with a [Sound Effect Alert!] BLAST of TRUMPETS) (15)

HENCHMEN

Golden Spatula!

(EVERYONE covers their eyes from the BLINDING LIGHT) (16)

PHOEBE

Jeez lady! Watch it with that thing will you! It's HOT!

(TRESAMAI quickly douses the SPATULA and the LIGHTS return to normal)

TRESAMAI

Sorry, it takes some getting used to I suppose.

(She hands the SPATULA to WILLIAM and hands the STAFF to her left HENCHMAN)

PHOEBE

I'm sorry, but I just can't understand why this is happening! Why him and not me? Who ARE you!?!

(TRESAMAI sighs and moves away from PHOEBE)

PHOEBE

(Stomps her feet)

Where's PHOEBE's fairy godmother!?!

(TRESAMAI snaps her fingers) (17)

(Cue FGRAP MUSIC)

(TRESAMAI snaps her fingers again which brings her HENCHMEN to stand to either side of her)

(The HENCHMEN begin to slowly groove to the beat and turn around with their backs to the audience. They then remove their VESTS which are PLAIN ON THE OUTSIDE AND SEQUINED ON THE INSIDE and reverse them. They then reach into their back pockets and pull out SUN GLASSES and hold them out to the side. The HENCHMEN then spin around to face the audience and simultaneously put on the shades and they and TRESAMAI begin to dance. This is done during the voice over of the pre-recorded song)

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

I'm his fairy godmother and I'm here to say,
I'm gonna solve all his problems, gonna make them go away,
I'm here with my crew, we're rollin' into town,
Gonna spread a little magic, gonna make you dance around,

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

She's looked into your future, She knows just what to do,
Because yours looks black, you don't gotta be blue,

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

I may look a little tattered, I can't get off the ground,
But with help from my boys, I'll help you get it down,

SONG RIFF BREAK

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

I'm not a famous fairy, I don't get the best gigs,
I got no movie deals like Glinda, got no concert dvd's,

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

She tried out for a company selling spicy chicken wings,

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

I couldn't even get a job doing infomercial things,

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

She could be so much better, She could shine like the sun,

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

I'm the cream of the crop, I could be number one,

(The left HENCHMAN pulls a ROLL of DUCT TAPE from his BELT POUCH and hands it to her)

HENCHMEN

She just needs a bit o' tape,

(The right HENCHMAN pulls a PAINT BRUSH from his BELT POUCH and hands it to the her)

HENCHMEN

She just needs a coat of paint,

(TRESAMAI tosses both items behind her. PHOEBE scrambles to pick them up. TRESAMAI points her thumb at William)

TRESAMAI

Instead I get the nut jobs, because I'm 3rd rate,
They call me 3rd rate,

SONG RIFF BREAK

(TRESAMAI moves off to the side dancing madly. The HENCHMEN move to either side of WILLIAM. PHOEBE throws the TAPE & BRUSH to WILLIAM and backs away in fear)

HENCHMEN

(Singing)

She's the one who follows you,
She's the one who's always 'round,
She sees that secret part of you,
That you thought could never be found,

With just a wish your dreams come true,
All those hopes inside of you,
Like a seed hidden underground,
Will soon burst forth to be found,

(TRESAMAI moves back to WILLIAM)

TRESAMAI

(Singing)

I got no need for crystal balls,
Watch what you dream, for she sees it all,
She sees all with her inner eye,

HENCHMEN

(Singing)

With a wave of her hand, you'll realize,

TRESAMAI & HENCHMEN

(Singing)

That your dreams can come true,
Because their already a part of you,

HENCHMEN

(Singing)

With a nudge from her you'll be on your way,
Your tomorrow will be a brand new day,

(The HENCHMEN move away, TRESAMAI moves behind WILLIAM)

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

So you see little boy, I'm at your beck and call,
Just keep it rated PG, so I don't take the fall,

(She puts her foot on WILLIAM's shoulder)

TRESAMAI (Cont'd)

(Rapping)

There ain't nothing like me, I could do it in the dark,

(She pushes WILLIAM over with her foot and steps past him)

TRESAMAI (Cont'd)

(Rapping)

Just don't take up my time, 'cause my limo's, double parked,
Yeah, I'm double parked,

SONG RIFF BREAK

(The HENCHMEN move back to WILLIAM and lean over him. TRESAMAI dances idiotically around)

HENCHMEN

(Singing)

Even though she's only grade 3,
That's more than enough for you and me,

TRESAMAI

I put the writing on the bathroom wall,
For all to read, for all to call,

HENCHMEN (Cont'd)

(Singing)

So when you go to sleep tonight,
Don't wait up or she won't alight,

TRESAMAI

(Singing)

You better be fast asleep,
So into your dreams, I can creep,

SONG RIFF BREAK

(The HENCHMEN make wild leg movements as if walking in place, bodies crouched and with their hands up as if they're going to attack WILLIAM)

HENCHMEN (Cont'd)

(Speaking)

She can creep,

(The HENCHMEN make scary faces at WILLIAM)

HENCHMEN (Cont'd)

(Speaking)

She's creepy,

(The HENCHMEN and WILLIAM shudder and hug themselves. Then the HENCHMEN move in front the audience. TRESAMAI moves off to the side and continues her idiotic dancing)

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

She's FG3, you can see what we mean,
She thinks she got the moves, but we got to come clean,

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

I'm never on time,

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

Without us she'd fall,

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

But I pay real good,

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

And she drives us to the mall,

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

I'll never be the best,

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

It's a bad thing to say,

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

But I'm full of goodwill,

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

And that's where she spends her pay,

(TRESAMAI moves between the HENCHMEN)

TRESAMAI

(Rapping)

I'm only 3rd rate,

HENCHMEN

(Rapping)

We know you know it's true,
We'll carry her around, as long as she's good to you,

SONG RIFF BREAK

(Each HENCHMAN holds out a hand with three fingers held up)

HENCHMEN (Cont'd)

She's FG3.

(As the music fades, the HENCHMEN pick up TRESAMAI by her armpits and 'fly' her up the main aisle [Exits]. PHOEBE crawls back to WILLIAM. TRESAMAI calls out as she disappears)

TRESAMAI

Good luck little Winkie! Good luck!

(PHOEBE stands and stares after TRESAMAI. WILLIAM waves the SPATULA around)

WILLIAM

(Frustrated)

Flame on! *(Waves SPATULA)* Shazam! *(Waves SPATULA)* Flick and swish!

PHOEBE

(Turns to WILLIAM)

What are you doing.

WILLIAM

Wonder twins power ACTIVATE! *(Waves SPATULA)* Use the force Luke!

(He waves the SPATULA around making light saber noises until he eventually gets tired and lowers it)

PHOEBE

(Deadpan)

You're an idiot aren't you.

(WILLIAM looks from the SPATULA to PHOEBE)

PHOEBE

You broke it.

(WILLIAM looks like he's going to cry)

PHOEBE

Oh don't cry! I just don't think you used the right words!
Hmm, let me think.

*(Turns away trying to remember the words.
WILLIAM waves the SPATULA in front of his
face)*

WILLIAM

Ooh, stinky!

*(He pokes at his DIAPER with the SPATULA,
stuffing it underneath his DIAPER)*

PHOEBE

Now what were they? Oh, I remember! *(Quickly turns to WILLIAM)*

FISHERMEN

OH NO! *(Duck & cover their eyes)*

PHOEBE

It was-- GOLDEN SPATULA!

*(With a [Sound Effect Alert!] HEAVENLY
CHORUS [Offstage] of GOLDEN SPATULA! the
SPATULA LIGHTS UP and burns WILLIAM's ass)*

WILLIAM

AAH!

PHOEBE

Oh GROW UP! You don't see me crying! At least you got
something! I didn't get anything except a stupid brush and a
roll of tape!

*(PHOEBE picks up the corner of the BLANKET
and drags WILLIAM off [Exits])*

END OF SCENE

ACT 1

Scene 7 The Story of Winkie Part 2

(The FISHERMEN laugh as they sit)

BRUCE

Oh that was wonderful Master Storyteller!

PALMER

Indeed it was! But I don't see how something that happened long ago to a little boy can have any bearing on Lily's future with Caducias!

WILLIS

Maybe Caducias marries Phoebe?

BRUCE & PALMER

(Beat on WILLIS)

Oh shut up!

STORYTELLER

Let us see shall we? *(Points to kitchen)* Behold!

(LILY and her PARENTS enter)

LILY

(Upset)

I keep telling you I don't know what I should do!

WIFE

Lily, you just can't marry him, he's a weasel! He's no good! A man like that can never love you or anyone! He can only love himself and-- *(Glares at her husband)* MONEY!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Holds LILY's shoulders)

Well, maybe he DOES love you-- and having that kind of money never hurt anyone! *(To WIFE)* We could sure use the help it would bring! *(To LILY)* Lily, listen! I know Blaeshue isn't the best thing to come around here in awhile, but just think of the things you could have! Would you rather marry someone poor and scruffy like a, a, a FISHERMAN! Or--

FISHERMEN

HEY!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Shrugs apologetic, turns to LILY)

Wouldn't it be better if you had all those things you wanted?
Well, he could give you those things!

WIFE

(Pushes TAVERNKEEPER)

We've never had all those things we've wanted and we're doing
just fine!

FISHERMEN

(Raise MUGS)

Yeah!

WIFE

(Glances at the FISHERMEN)

Well, for the most part anyway. The point is, Lily should marry
someone she loves-- someone who will love her in return and not
just because he's rich, ill-tempered and bad mannered!

BRUCE

Well, you're two for three there!

WIFE

Shut up you! This is my daughter we're talking about here!

LILY

All of you stop it!

*(Weeping, LILY runs out the back door to sit
on the garden wall. The tavern LIGHTS dim
and a SPOTLIGHT shines on the garden area.
The TAVERNKEEPER and his WIFE exit to the
kitchen. WINKIE enters from stage left and
walks quietly up the stairs. He stands un-
noticed behind LILY)*

LILY

I just don't know what to do. Why won't they leave me be and
let me think!

WINKIE

Who?

LILY

(Jumps to her feet)

Oh, Winkie! It's just you.

WINKIE

(Insulted)

I'm happy to see you too!

LILY

(Frustrated)

Oh it's not you!

WINKIE

What is it then? Have you hurt yourself? Are your parents ok?
What's wrong?

LILY

(Looks away)

Nothing. It's really nothing.

WINKIE

(Reaches out to her)

Really?

LILY

Really.

WINKIE

(Pulls his hand back embarrassed. Not knowing what to do, he points to the FLOWERS)

Are these marigolds? I've never seen this type before.

LILY

(Stands and looks closer)

I don't know, they're my mothers I guess. I never really noticed them before.

(WINKIE picks the PINWHEEL FLOWER and blows on it. It spins) (18)

LILY (Cont'd)

That's wonderful! Where did you learn to do that?

WINKIE

(Shrugs)

Isn't it supposed to do that?

(LILY laughs then tilts her head and gazes at WINKIE with a strange look in her eye)

WINKIE (Cont'd)

(Holds the PINWHEEL out to her)

Um, would you like to try it?

LILY

(Smiling playfully)

No.

WINKIE

No?

LILY

(Smiling, she sits upon the wall)

I'd like a new one! *(Turns to WINKIE shyly)* Could I please have a new one?

(WILLIAM shrugs and picks another FLOWER [a paper one on a straw] and sits next to her. He holds the FLOWER out to her then pulls it away as she reaches for it. She frowns and then they start laughing. WILLIAM hands her the FLOWER. He starts blowing on his which spins around slowly. LILY blows on hers but nothing happens. WINKIE looks sideways at LILY and starts blowing harder making the PINWHEEL spin faster. LILY looks sternly at her FLOWER and with a great inhale of air, blows upon her FLOWER which does nothing. WINKIE stops blowing on the PINWHEEL and grins deviously at LILY)

LILY (Cont'd)

(Determined)

Right! *(She rubs her hands together)* OK then! Watch this!

(Filling her lungs to bursting, LILY blows through the stem of the FLOWER sending it soaring through the air. The FISHERMEN gasp)

WINKIE

(Defeatedly)

Ok, you win. *(Pauses, then looks up smiling)* But you have to tell your mother that *(Pushes her playfully)* YOU picked the flowers from her garden!

(They laugh. She pushes him back)

LILY

How come we've never done this before?

WINKIE

You and your friends never let me come this close before!

(WINKIE looks around, searching)

LILY

What are you looking for?

WINKIE

Oh, nothing. Um, we are alone aren't we? Your friends aren't here are they?

LILY

(Laughs)

They don't like you very much do they.

WINKIE

(Angry)

They don't KNOW me very much DO they!

LILY

Yeah, I guess we were too busy making fun of you to--

(WILLIAM stands quickly and turns away still holding the flower)

LILY (Cont'd)

Wait! I'm sorry! I just meant that if we had taken the time-- I'm sure we would have liked you a lot!

(She curses at herself and gets up. WILLIAM begins to leave and she reaches out and grabs his arm)

LILY (Cont'd)

Please wait! I'm sorry!

WINKIE

(Pulls away)

Are your friends sorry too?

LILY

Please, I'm SORRY! Please don't go! I haven't had a very good day today and, well-- you've made me so very happy again!

WINKIE
(*Turns, hopeful*)

Really?

LILY
Yes really! (*Glances through the window*) I really should be getting back inside, it's getting late and I've fish to clean.

WINKIE
(*Sadly looks through the window*)
Oh, ok. You've got work to do. I understand-- (*Turns to leave*)

LILY
Could you-- maybe come back tomorrow night? We can talk some more and maybe-- oh, I don't know-- (*Points to FLOWERS*) pick more of my mother's flowers?

WINKIE
YES! (*Turns back*) I, I mean, uh, what I mean to say, um, is--

LILY
(*Shyly*)
Yes?

WINKIE
Yes. I would-- L, lo, *ahem* love to.

(*He kisses her hand gently. LILY blushes then walks to the door. WINKIE walks towards the stairs. LILY stops at the door*)

LILY
WINKIE?

WINKIE
(*Quickly turns and steps towards her*)
Yes?

(*They meet in the center of the garden. She kisses him on the cheek and runs back into the tavern and into the kitchen laughing. WILLIAM smiles and jumps from the wall onto the floor. He picks up her FLOWER and with a smile, runs up the aisle and into CADUCIAS and his HENCHMEN coming the other way*)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1

Scene 8 Confrontation Part 1

(CADUCIAS continues walking. DIBBLES & RITZ grab WINKIE and drag him along. They stop at the garden wall and slam WINKIE up against it and hold him while CADUCIAS looks him over)

CADUCIAS

(Pulls at WINKIE's clothing)

Well, well. What have we here?

DIBBLES

It doesn't look like much my lord!

RITZ

It looks like a starved rat my lord!

CADUCIAS

Indeed it does. Indeed it does. What are you doing out this late at night little starved rat?

DIBBLES

Perhaps the rat is looking for scraps of food my lord?

RITZ

Maybe the rat misplaced its hidey-hole and can't find its way back home again my lord?

CADUCIAS

Indeed. Well, rats live down *(Points offstage)* under the docks. So be off before your tail gets *(Makes chopping motion)* chopped off! *(Turns away)* C'mon boys, we've a little visit to pay to my future wife!

(They walk towards the tavern)

WINKIE

I'm not the rat around here Blaeshue!

CADUCIAS

(Stops, turns)

I'm sorry-- did you say something to me? *(Walks back, looks him over)* Hmm, stealing flowers to eat little rat?

*(DIBBLES & RITZ stand behind WINKIE.
CADUCIAS looks around, sees the GARDEN)*

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Ah, stealing is a CRIME in this province little rat! As the son of the Baron, it's my sworn duty to uphold the law so-- I'll take these!

(Grabs the FLOWERS, DIBBLES & RITZ grab WINKIE)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

And return them to their proper owners!

WINKIE

I know all about you Caducias! You've got a lot of guts talking about stealing!

CADUCIAS

Hmm, *(Walks around WINKIE)* speaking of guts.

(Nods to DIBBLES & RITZ who begin to beat the living crap out of WINKIE)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Stop!

DIBBLES

(Stops in mid-swing)

Stop my lord?

RITZ

(Stops in mid-kick)

You mean-- right NOW? My lord?

CADUCIAS

(Brushing lint from his shirt)

Yes, right now. *(Looks around)* Take him over there *(Points offstage)* into the bushes where no one passing by will see or hear. I'll meet you afterwards in the tavern.

*(DIBBLES & RITZ drag WINKIE offstage.
CADUCIAS, FLOWERS in hand, chuckles and heads to the tavern's garden door. The LIGHTS come back up in the tavern as the garden SPOTLIGHT goes out)*

PALMER

(Points to kitchen)

Did you see that? One minute she's happy, another sad--

BRUCE

And running around happy again the next! She's flippant indeed!

WILLIS

That's exactly what you were talking about earlier! Why is she--

(The FISHERMEN stop talking as CADUCIAS enters. WILLIS begins to "sneeze")

WILLIS

Caducias, Caducias, Cadu--

BRUCE

(To WILLIS)

Enough Willis. *(To CADUCIAS)* What brings you back here Blaeshue? Get locked out of your kennels tonight?

CADUCIAS

(Chuckling)

What a wonderful sense of humor you have! *(Leans closer)*
Just make sure that someone doesn't beat it out of you someday!

PALMER

(Stands)

Careful Blaeshue! You're not welcome here and you don't have your sword wielding toadies with you!

CADUCIAS

(Steps back)

Yes, well-- I'm not here to argue, *(Looks around)* but to bring a small token of my undying love for, for--

WILLIS

(Angry)

LILY?

CADUCIAS

Fool! Of COURSE LILY! *(Calms)* I would love to waste more of my time talking to you but I'm here to see, *(Frowns)* to see--

WILLIS

(Pounds TABLE)

LILY!

CADUCIAS

(Calmly to WILLIS)

Yes, of course-- Lily. If you like the name so much, why don't you change yours?

(Growling, WILLIS moves towards CADUCIAS, BRUCE & PALMER stop him)

BRUCE

(To WILLIS)

It's not worth it.

(CADUCIAS chuckles, the FISHERMEN sit)

PALMER

What are those you're carrying Blaeshue? Supper?

CADUCIAS

(Looks at FLOWERS)

These? *(Tosses them under the bar)* Nothing. Would one of you gentlemen please tell me where Lily might be?

BRUCE

If it will get you out of here faster! *(Yells to kitchen)*
Yo' mate! You've got another customer!

CADUCIAS

(To BRUCE sarcastically)

How quaint!

BRUCE

Bugger you!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Enters)

My lord Blaeshue! Your back early?

CADUCIAS

Yes, how nice of you to notice. Would Lily happen to be home this evening?

TAVERNKEEPER

Yes my lord! She's in the kitchen helping her mother clean fish and cook supper!

CADUCIAS

(Disgusted)

Indeed. Yes, well, would it be possible to interrupt her duties for a moment? I have come here to give her a present!

TAVERNKEEPER

At ONCE my lord! *(Turns and yells to kitchen)* LILY!
(To CADUCIAS) Oh sir, she has been positively BEAMING with excitement this evening! *(Turns and calls again)* LILY! LILY!
(To CADUCIAS) I'm sorry my lord, she should be here in but a moment! *(To kitchen)* LILY! You have a VISITOR! *(Turns back worried)*

(LILY comes bursting through the doorway smiling and stops when she sees CADUCIAS)

LILY

(Confused)

Oh, my lord Blaeshue! How-- nice to see you again-- and so soon.

(LILY looks around. The TAVERNKEEPER pushes her towards CADUCIAS)

TAVERNKEEPER

Here she is my lord!

LILY

Oh, you're my visitor?

CADUCIAS

You were expecting someone else?

LILY

Um, no-- my lord.

CADUCIAS

I hope you'll forgive me for such an abrupt visit, but I was just telling my mother about--

PALMER

(Baby voice)

Mama, mama--

CADUCIAS

(To PALMER) Pardon us, but WE'RE having an adult conversation! Go back to playing in the mudpits with your friends!

FISHERMEN

Ooo! (19)

CADUCIAS

(Holds LILY's shoulders)

Pay those loutish brutes no mind my dear for I have wonderful news! As I was saying-- my mother has offered to finance our wedding and she's planning a large and spectacular ball in your honor!

(Roughly pulls LILY close in a hug and she grunts at the force of his embrace. LILY pulls free and steps back)

LILY

Um, that's wonderful my lord, but I don't understand? I haven't given you an answer yet!

CADUCIAS

Nonsense my child! I'll make you the happiest-- *(Looks at the TAVERNKEEPER who smiles)* and the richest-- *(Looks back at LILY)* girl in the province! You will want for nothing! Your wish will be my command!

LILY

(Leans against the bar post and mumbles)

I just wish I knew what I wanted is all.

CADUCIAS

What was that my dear? I didn't quite hear you?

LILY

(Looks out the window at the FLOWERS. Remembering, smiles and turns to CADUCIAS)

My lord, I have not yet an answer to your request for my hand!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Shocked)

LILY!

CADUCIAS

I-- see. *(Brushes lint off his SHIRT)* Well, no matter. *(Grabs her shoulders)* I'm sure you'll make the best decision in time.

(CADUCIAS tries to kiss LILY on the cheek. LILY turns away. Angered, CADUCIAS goes to the front door and hand on the knob, turns back to the others)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Well, a goodnight to you all. *(To LILY)* May I call upon you tomorrow evening?

LILY

If you wish my lord.

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Wonderful! Until tomorrow evening then!

(CADUCIAS opens the door and in barge DIBBLES and RITZ who fall on him)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

You idiots! Get OFF me! MOVE! *(Stands)* Give me one reason why I shouldn't FIRE you on the SPOT!

DIBBLES

(Stands)

Well, we finished the job!

RITZ

(Stands)

Yes, it was easy and he hardly made a sound!

DIBBLES

We left him--

CADUCIAS

Idiots! If I wanted you to tell me about some stupid rat you've killed, I'll ask you! *(Brushes himself off)* Please forgive my guards, it seems they've gotten a bit excited about removing some rats that have been plaguing my stables of late.

WIFE

(Enters)

What's all the noise--! *(Points to CADUCIAS)* What's HE doing here?

PALMER

He was just telling us what his guards were fixing him for supper!

WIFE

Well, a snake like him probably eats worms-- or a rat!

(The FISHERMEN fall to the floor laughing. Incensed, CADUCIAS and his HENCHMEN exit)

WIFE (Cont'd)

(Kicking the FISHERMEN)

Get up! GET UP! Get up or GET OUT!

(Fuming, she exits. The FISHERMEN sit. LILY looks out the front door and seeing nothing, closes it, then picks up the FLOWERS on the floor)

LILY

Where did these come from?

BRUCE

Blaeshue brought them in when he came to see you. Why?

LILY

Oh, nothing. *(Heads for kitchen, stops and turns)* Do you--
Do you men know of a boy from the forest? A boy named Winkie?

WILLIS

I may know of this boy, though more of a young man is more like
it even though you couldn't tell by his clothing. I believe his
name is William, not Winkie.

LILY

Hmm, William-- a good strong name. *(Ponders the FLOWERS)*

BRUCE

Why the interest in this William? Has he done you some harm?

PALMER

If so, we can teach the boy a thing or two about treating a lady
with proper respect!

BRUCE & WILLIS

YEAH!

LILY

No! No harm to me or anyone I know. I was only-- curious, that's
all.

STORYTELLER

(Stands)

And Lily, with a frown and a thoughtful look in her eye, goes back into the kitchen to finish helping her mother cook supper and clean smelly fish.

(LILY exits)

PALMER

(Stands horrified)

WAIT! Did we-- did we just call HER-- *(Points to kitchen)*
a LADY?

(BRUCE and PALMER grab their MUGS and drain them dry. WILLIS, not to be left out, follows suit and drains his MUG. They stare silently at their empty MUGS)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1

Scene 9 Off To War

BRUCE

(Slams MUG on TABLE in frustration)

This is a cruel tale you tell us Master Storyteller!
Cruel indeed!

WILLIS

What is to happen to Lily? Surely she didn't marry Blaeshue?

PALMER

(Sits)

And what of Winkie! Or William rather? Is he dead?

STORYTELLER

(Brings his MUG to his lips, tilts it upside down and looks at the TAVERNKEEPER)

Ahem.

(The TAVERNKEEPER exits to kitchen with MUGS)

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

Well, the Baron went off to war and left his son Caducias to oversee the province. And with his father gone, he increased the taxes upon the people to fill his coffers and he became a greater evil than before.

BRUCE

It would've been better had Caducias gone! Perhaps luck would have happened and he would have been killed and saved many people much grief!

(TAVERNKEEPER enters with MUGS)

STORYTELLER

Even so. But such a thing didn't happen and Caducias stayed while his father did the Kings will. So, Caducias came to the tavern night after night and waited for Lily's answer.

PALMER

What of William? Was he killed by Caducias' men or did he still live?

STORYTELLER

Each night Lily waited in the garden for William to appear and each night she went to sleep wondering why he did not.

PALMER

And Caducias?

STORYTELLER

Well, the Tavernkeeper, worried for Lily, made it clear to Caducias that he was not to speak to Lily unless she requested him. So every night Caducias sat in the corner and waited.

PALMER

But why would Caducias be so, so-- persistent?
Why such a desire for Lily to drive him to such behavior?

STORYTELLER

Because he was used to getting what he wanted and probably convinced himself in his own twisted way that he loved her. But before you can love someone else, you must learn to love yourself first.

WILLIS

It would seem from your tale that Caducias loved himself very much indeed!

STORYTELLER

Yes, but his love never grew. He had an emptiness that could never be filled no matter how much he took from others. For the only way to fill your heart is by giving-- not taking.

BRUCE

Why didn't he just ignore the Tavernkeeper's rule as he did in every other thing?

STORYTELLER

Caducias was ever the coward and would do nothing openly against Lily's parents, at least until she was wed to him. So in hopes that he would tire and leave Lily alone from the expense, the Tavernkeeper charged Caducias a little more each night for his supper. But Caducias just grumbled and payed the coin.

PALMER

But that was the peoples tax money they were making!

STORYTELLER

Oh they knew that very well! So the Tavernkeeper began to give their suppers to the people for free and the word spread of their goodness even to the Kings ear! Ah! I get ahead of myself! Where was I? Ah yes, so Lily waited for William and Caducias waited for Lily and-- (**Lifts MUG to drink, tips it upside down**) Drat! Empty! Such tales take more time than a mug can hold it seems!

(The TAVERNKEEPER takes the MUGS into the kitchen)

BRUCE

Your tale still has a sad taste to it even though Caducias seems humbled beyond repair.

PALMER

(To BRUCE)

Forget not that the good people in the tavern still have him to contend with!

WILLIS

Poor Lily! How can she hold up night after night without word or sign of William? Her heart must be about to break!

BRUCE

Master Storyteller! Will you FINALLY tell us what happened to the boy? Is he dead?

TAVERNKEEPER

(Enters)

You know-- (**Puts down the MUGS**) I really should put those ale kegs out here behind the bar. That way you'd have to do all the walking back and forth! Maybe I'll put a hole in the wall to hand the food through from the kitchen too! All this walking is making me old before my time! (**Stretches, grabs lower back in pain**) Ah, I'm not as young as I used to be you know!

BRUCE

And your Wife? Does she also complain that you're not as young as you used to be?

TAVERNKEEPER

Only in certain things of late, and in others-- not at ALL!

WILLIS

(*To PALMER*)

What does he mean by that?

PALMER

(*Puts his arm around WILLIS and points to the PICKLE*)

It's like the Pickle over there.

(*WILLIS looks at the PICKLE then at PALMER*)

PALMER (Cont'd)

You're too young! (*To STORYTELLER*) Now, please continue Master Storyteller!

STORYTELLER

Well first, I'll talk more about the border war, for you see, the King was winning the war and the land looked as if it were about to have peace again! But no peace came to Caducias for he knew his father would soon be home and he feared what his father would do! And there were rumors-- Rumors that there was to be one last battle that would decide all-- and Caducias hoped that it would mark the ending of his father so he could lay permanent claim to the Barony. (*Pauses*) And a few nights before this battle, William-- (*Pauses*) finally came to see Lily.

FISHERMEN

YEAH!

STORYTELLER

It was late and the tavern was ready to close. All the customers had gone home.

(*LILY enters from kitchen and walks out to stand in the garden. The TAVERN LIGHTS DIM and a SPOT LIGHT SHINES upon the garden. LILY kneels down, head in her hands weeping. WILLIAM, with POTS and PANS about him, and an OLD RUSTY SPATULA in his BELT, appears*)

LILY

WILLIAM! Where have you been! Why didn't you come to see me that night? It's been weeks! I've been so worried and-- (*Points at the POTS*) What is all that for? (20)

WILLIAM

I'm sorry I didn't visit earlier. I didn't mean to hurt or worry you. I've been very-- um, sick. But I'm much better now. As for this-- (**Spreads his arms wide**) Well, there's a war on and now that I am better, I must do my part.

LILY

I don't understand? Why must you go?

WILLIAM

I'd like to stay but-- well, I've got to try and help protect those things I-- you see I'm not much of a fighter--

LILY

What are you talking about? What happened!?

WILLIAM

I'm sorry Lily, there's not much time and there's so much I want to say. (**Pulls a MEDALLION of TARNISHED SILVER from his SHIRT**)

(The STORYTELLER comes outside and stands off to the side watching silently)

WILLIAM (Con'td)

Here, this used to be my mothers before she died. I'd like you to have it. (**Places it at her feet and steps back**) Could you hold on to it for me until I get back? (**Backs away into the darkness, choking on the pain of his next words**) It's-- it's really all I've got left.

STORYTELLER

(Quietly)

And William, with a heavy heart, turns and moves off into the darkness and the unknown.

LILY

WILLIAM! (**Picks up the MEDALLION and starts to cry**) William--

(LILY runs upstairs and falls on her BED. The STORYTELLER enters the tavern as the garden LIGHT goes out. The LIGHTS come back up in the tavern and bedroom)

BRUCE

Master Storyteller! Again I say this tale is a cruel one! Is there nothing you offer but sorrow? Are you to break our hearts like those poor souls in the story?

WILLIS

Poor Lily! She will surely die from her heart breaking!
Bruce speaks truly Master Storyteller! You are cruel in your
telling! (**Turns away**) Please speak no more!

STORYTELLER

My good friends! Would I ask you to haul in your nets and then
dump your fish back overboard? Perhaps you would ask a flower to
grow but not bloom?

(The FISHERMEN shake their heads)

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

Then why would you ask me to end a story before it's time?

PALMER

William is hardly a warrior and would surely die if he made
it to the border. And if he stays, Caducias would surely learn
of his love for Lily and vent his anger upon him.
He is dead either way.

STORYTELLER (21)

(Stands next to the window and looks 'out')

Ah my friends, wait and see. Wait and see! Young William left
Lily and began his long journey on foot towards the border in
hopes that he would meet with the King's armies and therefore,
join in the fight to help protect that which he loves! (**Points
to the aisle**)

*(WILLIAM walks down the aisle. A LIGHT
reveals him when he gets to the floor. The
main tavern room LIGHTS DIM as the
STORYTELLER speaks)*

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

But William's mind was so full of worry for Lily that his feet
trod from remembered paths and after many miles, soon found
himself quite lost in the night woods.

WILLIAM

(Stops and looks around)

Blast it all! How did I-- Ah! I must have made a wrong turn!
(Kicks at the ground) Why can't I do anything right! *(Kicks the
ground again)* I'm sorry I let you down Lily, I never even said
goodbye--

LILY

(Sits up quickly)

William? *(Moves to the bedroom 'window')* (22)

(Cue WHAT AM I TO DO MUSIC)

STORYTELLER

But sometimes, just for a moment. Something, perhaps magic--
can bring two people together, who are very far apart--

WILLIAM

I walk the streets at night, thinking about you,
Like a ghost hiding in the shadows,
There's nowhere to run, there's nowhere to hide,
I missed my chance for a happy tomorrow,
I can only hope you'll be happy this way,

EVERYONE (22A)

Happy this way,

WILLIAM

All of my dreams, have been dashed away,
Won't somebody please, please tell me what am I to do,

EVERYONE

(Softly - typical throughout)

What am I to do (x8)

LILY

I can't think at all, I'm being pulled in so many ways,
Which way do I turn, my minds in a haze,
At war within myself, my mind and my heart,
I long for my dreams, but will love play a part,
Should I settle for what, is right in front of me,

EVERYONE

Front of me,

LILY

Or take a chance, for what could be,
Won't somebody please, please tell me what am I to do,

EVERYONE

What am I to do (x8)

WILLIAM

I've longed for your embrace it seems for all my life,

EVERYONE

All my life,

WILLIAM

I've dreamed of someone to hold someone to be my wife,
You deserve more, than what I have to give,

EVERYONE

I can give,

WILLIAM

But without you in my life, how am I supposed to live,
I don't know where to go, I don't know what to say,

EVERYONE

What to say,

WILLIAM

My sky looks dark, my future looks gray,
Won't somebody please, please tell me what am I to do,

EVERYONE

What am I to do (x8)

LILY

I've learned so many things, I've changed my point of view,

EVERYONE

Point of view,

LILY

I've come to realize, that I love you,
And now your gone, I never said goodbye,

EVERYONE

Gone, goodbye,

LILY

No matter what it takes, for your sake I'll try,
I'll wait and hope, I'll pray you'll come to me,

EVERYONE

Back to me,

LILY

How could I not have known, how could I not have seen,
Won't somebody please, please tell me what am I to do,

EVERYONE

What am I to do (x8)

WILLIAM

Will I ever be, as happy as I was,

EVERYONE

As I was,

LILY

Will I ever see your smile filled with your love,

EVERYONE

All your love,

WILLIAM

Can there ever come a time when her love will shine my way,

EVERYONE

Shine my way,

LILY

Can I have that dream that I dream today,

EVERYONE

Dream today,

LILY & WILLIAM

Should I ignore the calling of my heart,

EVERYONE

Of my heart,

LILY & WILLIAM

No matter where I go, will we always be apart,

EVERYONE

Far apart,

LILY & WILLIAM

Somebody please, please tell me what am I to do,

EVERYONE

What am I to do (x8)

(End MUSIC)

(The Tavern room LIGHTS slowly come back up)

STORYTELLER

Saddened beyond measure, Lily lies down and cries herself to sleep. William continues on his journey and disappears into the dark forest.

(The GARDEN and BEDROOM LIGHTS go out. LILY exits the bedroom via the closet and WILLIAM exits stage left)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1

Scene 10 Some Late Arrivals

BRUCE

I am glad that William is alive but I see no happy ending in sight!

WILLIS

Is there no hope for any of them? For Lily and William?

PALMER

Maybe some tales just don't have a happy ending.

BRUCE

This seems to be true. Master Storyteller, there must SOME gladness that will yet happen before the story ends?

STORYTELLER

Agreed! (*Paces in thought*) then for the moment only, just as the tavern was closing--

(The TAVERNKEEPER and WIFE enter. He heads for the front door and she wipes down the TABLE)

WIFE

Its past closing time you lot! Time to go home!

BRUCE

Oh come on! We've only just started!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Opens the door)

Nope, sorry boys, it's time to leave!

(In the doorway stands a WELL DRESSED MAN and TWO WOMEN. ROBERT, his wife ROSEMARY and her mother ELIZABETH FLUKES. They enter)

ROBERT

(To ROSEMARY)

See Rosemary! What service! They open the door for you! The rumors we've heard were true!

ROSEMARY

I don't know Robert. I really wanted to go up the street.

ELIZABETH
(*Distastfully*)

Really Rosemary! You should have listened to me! I still have a table reserved at--

TAVERNKEEPER
Hello, can I help you?

ROBERT
Yes, we'd like some dinner please. A table for three.

ROSEMARY
If it's not too late of course.

ELIZABETH
Of course it's not too late! All '*proper*' restaurants maintain '*proper*' hours for their clientele at any hour of the day or night!

ROSEMARY
Mother please! Can you stop complaining for just one night?

ROBERT
(*Takes the TAVERNKEEPER's arm, pulling him to the side*)
It's our one year anniversary! I'm sorry we're late but you know how women are, taking all that time just to choose what shoes she's going to wear! I tried to tell her the first pair were just fine but they didn't go with her dress, and then the second pair didn't go with her hair and the third pair didn't--

TAVERNKEEPER
It's alright! It's alright good fellow! (*To WIFE*) Dear heart, are the ovens still warm? This couple happens to be celebrating their anniversary and decided to go to the best place around!

WIFE
Of course! (*Exits to kitchen with MUGS*) (23)

(*ROBERT, ROSEMARY and ELIZABETH look around for a place to sit. The TAVERNKEEPER gestures to the FISHERMEN and they stand holding out their CHAIRS to the new customers. BRUCE stands at the bar, WILLIS sits on the stairs, PALMER stands near the cellar. The STORYTELLER goes behind the bar*)

TAVERNKEEPER

(To customers) So, what can I get you this wonderful evening?

(The WIFE enters)

ELIZABETH

Well, we'd like some more time to look at the menu please.

TAVERNKEEPER & WIFE

Of course!

(The TAVERNKEEPER goes to the bar making small talk with the STORYTELLER. The WIFE stops on her way to the kitchen and wipes a 'window' clean with her DISHRAG. With a satisfied nod, she exits to the kitchen. The customers look around before they look down)

ROSEMARY

(To ROBERT)

Robert, where are the menus?

ROBERT

(Snaps fingers at TAVERNKEEPER)

Excuse me! I say there fellow! Excuse me!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Moves to customers)

Yes?

ROBERT

There seems to be something wrong here waiter, we have no--

BRUCE

Bananas?

ROBERT

What--? No!

TAVERNKEEPER

(To BRUCE)

Hush Bruce!

ROBERT

There are no menus. We need menus in order to order please.

TAVERNKEEPER

Of course! I'll get you a menu immediately! (*Turns to kitchen*)

ROSEMARY

And we'd like some water too please.

TAVERNKEEPER

(*Turns back*)

Of course! (*Turns to kitchen*)

ELIZABETH

Preferably spring water.

TAVERNKEEPER

(*Turns back*)

Well our water comes from a well, but it does bounce around a bit in the glass! (*Chuckles*)

(*The CUSTOMERS just stare at him oblivious to the joke*)

TAVERNKEEPER

Yes, well-- I'll see what I can do. (*Exits the same time as the WIFE enters*)

WIFE

(*Enters*) We're terribly sorry! My husband has just told me about the menus. If you're ready I can take your orders.

ROBERT

What do you have? Where are your menus?

ELIZABETH

I ordered spring water. The best restaurants always have--

ROSEMARY

Mother! Please don't start! It's our first anniversary! Can't you behave just for one night?

ELIZABETH

I just don't see why we had to come here of all places!

ROSEMARY

Robert has worked hard all year and saved up just for this moment! He works very hard down at the docks and--

ELIZABETH

Don't remind me about those filthy smelly docks! It was his fault what happened to me last week!

(BRUCE, PALMER & WILLIS lean forward to hear better)

ROBERT

It was NOT my FAULT! I work on the docks, not on the boat that dropped their haul on your carriage!

(BRUCE and PALMER quickly turn away pretending they didn't hear)

ROBERT

Why did you decide to come down then of all days?

ELIZABETH

Your wife wanted to bring you lunch! You think I would let her go down there alone among those ruffians? And to think what happened! I'll never get the smell out of my carriage-- or my hair! *(To FISHERMEN)* You men! Your fishermen! You work with those filthy smelly slimy things! Did you hear what happened to me last week! Do you know who those idiots were who dropped a full net of fish onto my carriage?

(BRUCE and PALMER quickly deny any knowledge and turn away trying not to laugh or be noticed) (24)

ELIZABETH

If I ever find out who it was, heads will roll I promise you! I know the baron and--

ROSEMARY

Mother! No one told you to park your carriage in the loading zone! It's your own fault you didn't read the signs!

ELIZABETH

(To ROSEMARY)

They dropped those fish on purpose! Their just jealous they're not rich like us Fluke's! Why we practically founded this town and they should be thankful that we--

ROSEMARY

Mother, stop! Can't you for once not talk about money! Those poor men work very hard. I'm sure it was an accident!

ROBERT

(To ELIZABETH angry)

I'll have you know that ropes break all the time! (*Stands*)
Unlike SOME things in this world, they WORK for a living--

(ELIZABETH stands insulted)

ROBERT (Cont'd)

and know when to PACK IT IN when their TIME - IS - UP!

ROSEMARY

Robert! That's no way to talk to mother! You know she has a
condition!

WIFE

I'm sorry, but we don't serve spring water here.

(ROBERT and ELIZABETH sit)

ROSEMARY

Well, then what DO you have?

WIFE

Well, we have all sorts of things. We have a wide variety of
local cuisine. We have fish and we have beans.
We have--

(Rhyming)

Sausage and fish with chicken,
And breads and soups with fish.

FISHERMEN

(Softly chanting)

Fish, fish, fish, fish, (etc...)

WIFE

(Rhyming)

We have fish, potatoes and tacos,
We have fish, corn and nachos.
There's clams with fish and octopus pasta,
And oysters with fish and electric eel chowda.
There's codfish, and tuna fish,
And bloated sturgeon filets.
We have all sorts of things to eat,
But sorry, no mayonnaise.

*(The FISHERMEN chant louder and quietly
stomp their feet to the beat)*

WIFE (Cont'd)
(*Louder Rhyming*)

We've got toasted seaweed salads,
With olives, and cheese.
Perhaps you'd like a pate'?
Made from urchins, and bees?
There's all sorts of things I can make,
With fish, that will please.
Maybe you'd like some shark fin soup?
Made with chicken, from the sea?

(*FISHERMEN stop chanting when WIFE stops*)

ROSEMARY
Do you have anything without so much fish in it?

WIFE
Of course! Of course! Let me think! (*Paces the floor*)

FISHERMEN
(*Softly*)
Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish...

WIFE (Cont'd)
(*Rhyming*)
There's boiled ham with frog-leg cheese,
And oatmeal pie, with carp dumplings.
Pork and prunes in a hot shrimp sauce,
With a side of lamprey, served hot in a pot!
Kibbies and snails, with stripers you could try,
There's trout from the lake, that we caught with dry flies.
There's bluefish, and greenfish,
And fish, with no tails.
We've curry and spice, with fishheads and rice.
But no dolphins, or whales.

FISHERMEN
(*Louder, stomping feet*)
Fish, fish, fish, fish, etc...

(*ROSEMARY & ELIZABETH cover their ears*)

WIFE
(*Loud & fast*)
And we also have a wonderful tasty fishbone salad dressing
casserole with chunks of fisheyes baked in a crispy vanilla
flavored fish crust topped with a--

WIFE & ELIZABETH
(*To FISHERMEN*)

SHUT UP!

ROSEMARY
(*Screams*)

BUT I DON'T LIKE FISH!

ROBERT
(*Pats her hand*)

Hush dear! I'll pick out the fishy bits for you. (*Smiles at the FISHERMEN*) I LOVE fish!

WIFE
(*To ROSEMARY*)

How can you not like fish?

ELIZABETH

She's allergic.

ROSEMARY
(*Sulking*)

I-- I break out in a rash.

WIFE
(*Pats her shoulder*)

I understand my dear. Some wine perhaps?

ROSEMARY
Is there-- Is there any fish in it?

WIFE
Dear me! Who in their right mind would put fish in wine?

(*BRUCE & PALMER raise their hands*)

WIFE (Cont'd)
It's more of a condiment my dear! (*Grabs the KETCHUP BOTTLE and shakes it*) Like ketchup or salt but harder to get out of the bottle! Maybe you'd like to try some?

ROSEMARY
(*Defeatedly*)
I'll just have some wine please. (*Rests her head on the TABLE*)

WIFE

(Slams the KETCHUP BOTTLE down next to ROSEMARY's head and addresses ROBERT)

You should be ashamed! Taking your wife out when she's not feeling well! *(Smacks ROBERT's head then pats ROSEMARY's shoulder)* There, there, my dear! I'll fetch some of our best wine for you! You just wait right here while I go down to the cellars and get it. *(Exits)* (25)

PALMER

(To ROSEMARY)

Well! Tell me my lady. Why don't you like fish again? Fish are wonderful creatures! Why if we never caught fish all the people would starve!

ROBERT

I like fish!

(TAVERNKEEPER enters and places water glasses on table)

BRUCE

Of course you do! We ALL love fish! Don't we boys!

ALL MEN

Yeah!

BRUCE

What do we eat?

ALL MEN

Fish!

BRUCE

What do we catch?

ALL MEN

Fish!

BRUCE

What do we love!?!?

PALMER, BRUCE, WILLIS & TAVERNKEEPER

We love--

(Cue FISH MUSIC)

PALMER, BRUCE, WILLIS & TAVERNKEEPER

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

BRUCE & PALMER

We eat fish in the morning, we eat fish all day long,
We eat cold fish for lunch, and we bring it back home,
We have fish heads for supper, with baked beans and some bread,

WILLIS

So if you want anything better, your in the wrong place my
friend,

STORYTELLER & TAVERNKEEPER

But we got fish,

*(The FISH HEADS sing the words "fish" along
with the FISHERMEN for the rest of the song)*

PALMER, BRUCE, WILLIS

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

STORYTELLER & TAVERNKEEPER

A whole lotta fish,

PALMER, BRUCE, WILLIS

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

BRUCE

Perhaps you'd like to have a salad, with some dressing on top,

PALMER

Well there's some green stuff in the garden out back, it's
a short walk,

BRUCE

Maybe you'd prefer a juicy steak and some wine from a decanter,

WILLIS

Some soft romantic lighting,

BRUCE & PALMER

Not in this place no sir,

STORYTELLER & TAVERNKEEPER

But we got fish,

PALMER, BRUCE, WILLIS

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

STORYTELLER & TAVERNKEEPER

Truckloads of fish,

PALMER, BRUCE, WILLIS

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

TAVERNKEEPER

Oh shut up, stop it, all of you hush, that's just not what they wish,
They're here to celebrate a special occasion, and to eat my home cooked fish,

FISHERMEN

Hooray!

TAVERNKEEPER

Anyway you want it, this I guarantee,
You'll never taste a better fish of any species or pedigree,
Its grade "A" fish,

PALMER, BRUCE, WILLIS & STORYTELLER

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

TAVERNKEEPER

'cause I cook the fish,

PALMER, BRUCE, WILLIS & STORYTELLER

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

ELIZABETH

(Slams hands on table)

All of you stop!

(Everything stops)

ROSEMARY

(Looks up, moans)

But why does it have to be fish?

TAVERNKEEPER

Because we love our fish,

FISHERMEN & STORYTELLER

We love those fish,

TAVERNKEEPER

That's what we do,

FISHERMEN & STORYTELLER

That's what we do,

TAVERNKEEPER

If you cook them up just right,

TAVERNKEEPER, STORYTELLER & FISHERMEN

Then they'll be good for you,

(The FISH shake their HEADS in agreement)

TAVERNKEEPER & STORYTELLER

'cause we love fish,

ALL MEN

(ROBERT stands and dances with the others)

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

TAVERNKEEPER & STORYTELLER

And you can too,

ALL MEN

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

TAVERNKEEPER

Ya gotta have fish,

ALL MEN

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

STORYTELLER

To keep away the flu,

ALL MEN

Fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish, fish,

(As all the MEN chant "fish", they dance around the TABLE and each man grabs a FISH from the BASKET as they go by. At the last chorus, ELIZABETH gets up and starts screaming at the MEN who are still dancing)

ELIZABETH

I knew we should have never come here! Your all crazy!

(ELIZABETH breaks out of the dancing circle of MEN and turns to ROSEMARY)

ELIZABETH (Cont'd)

I'm crazy for letting you talk me into coming here! I tried to tell you-- but no! You never listen to me! *(Points to ROBERT)*
See what kind of a man you married? *(Storms out)*

ROSEMARY

(Breaks out of the circle and calls out the door)

Mother come back!

(ROSEMARY turns and pulls ROBERT from the dancing circle and pulls him close)

ROSEMARY (Cont'd)

Oh Robert! *(Sobs)* How could you! *(Runs to the door and turns back angry)* I want a DIVORCE!

ROBERT

But my love! Wait! WAIT!

ROSEMARY

I'm going home to MOTHER! *(Exits)*

(ROBERT exits calling after his wife. The song climaxes as the singers, FISH in hand, stop dancing around the TABLE. With one foot on the CHAIRS and facing the audience, they hold up their FISH in a celebratory manner. The TAVERNKEEPER kneels on the floor in front of the TABLE, arms flung wide, one FISH in each hand, the STORYTELLER stands, arms out, behind them)

TAVERNKEEPER, FISHERMEN & STORYTELLER

FISH!

(End MUSIC)

(When the music stops, the WIFE comes from the cellar with a TRAY, a BOTTLE OF WINE and two [plastic] GLASSES on the TRAY)

(The WIFE quickly puts it on the bar and takes the BOTTLE and GLASSES in hand and walks happily to the TABLE to see the MEN, unmoving in their celebratory posture. The STORYTELLER tosses his fish on the table and leaps back onto the stairs looking innocent. The MEN, scared, move just their eyes to look at her but still face forward. The WIFE's 'theme' starts. Duh-DUH!)

WILLIS

(Whispering)

If we don't move, maybe she won't see us!

(Duh-DUH. The WIFE slowly crushes the GLASSES. Duh-DUH. Growling, the WIFE turns and stomps to the kitchen as the pace increases she stops at the kitchen door and screams at the orchestra)

WIFE

SHUT UP! *(Exits)*

(Silence, the MEN don't move)

TAVERNKEEPER

Is she gone?

STORYTELLER

Yes, I think your coast is clear.

(The MEN slowly start to move. SCREAMS and CRASHING POTS & PANS comes from the kitchen. The MEN cringe and freeze until it ends)

BRUCE

Ok, I think the worst is over.

(The FISHERMEN sit down. The TAVERNKEEPER goes over and peeks into the kitchen and quickly backs away as a POT comes flying through the door)

TAVERNKEEPER

That's easy for you to say! *(Exits)*

(The FISHERMEN sit and play CARDS using FISH as poker chips)

BRUCE

OK! I'll see your fish and raise you two fish.

PALMER

I'll see your two fish and raise you--

WILLIS

(Holds up a FISH)

Wait a minute! How much are the fish worth again...? *(Shows PALMER his cards)* Should I fold?

(BRUCE & PALMER beat on WILLIS and berate him for ruining the game)

END ACT ONE

CURTAIN

ACT 2

Scene 11 Lily's Realization

The LIGHTS COME UP as the STORYTELLER enters stage left and walks along the garden path stopping in the center. The FISHERMEN are sitting playing cards. The TAVERNKEEPER is behind the bar and his WIFE is squirting the 'windows' from an [empty] bottle and wiping them down. The LIGHTS are on in the main room, UPSTAIRS is DIMMED.

STORYTELLER

(To Audience)

It was a few days later, a typical evening just an hour before the tavern was to open. *(Enters through window)*

WIFE

(Smacks him with her DISHRAG)

Hey! I just cleaned that! You had better not have stepped on my flowers either!

(The STORYTELLER sits by the FIREPLACE)

WIFE (Cont'd)

(Looks through window)

HEY! *(Steps through window)* Who's been picking my FLOWERS!
(Steps back inside through the window)

TAVERNKEEPER

Maybe it's birds that are eating your flowers. I'll make you a scarecrow to keep them away.

*(Enter LILY's friends, BETHANY (15),
WILLOW (14) & SARAH (13))*

MOTHER

Oh! Good evening girls, come to see Lily?

GIRLS

(Curtsy, unison)

Good evening!

WILLOW

Yes we've come to see Lily.

BETHANY

Is she at home?

SARAH

(Spins around showing her DRESS)

My mother just made me this dress! Isn't it just gorgeous?
I just have to show Lily!

MOTHER

She's upstairs in her room, go on up, you know the way. (26)

(She shoos them upstairs. The main room LIGHTS DIM. The BEDROOM LIGHTS BRIGHTEN, LILY is sitting on her bed staring out the window, a HAND MIRROR beside her on the bed. The GIRLS burst into her room)

GIRLS

(Unison)

Lily! Hey Lily! Look! Look!

SARAH

(Spins around)

Isn't it wonderful? My mother made it and she said she may have enough fabric left to make more for you Bethany and Willow! *(Kneels next to the bed taking LILY's hand)*
Just think of it! We could all look alike!

WILLOW

Yes! We could start a club where only girls with the same dresses could join!

BETHANY

And no BOYS allowed of course!

(SARAH and WILLOW stare at BETHANY)

WILLOW

No, you think?

SARAH

As if we could get a boy to wear a dress! Besides, my mother thinks she only has enough cloth for three more. Hey! Maybe we could start a club for people who wear the same kind of hats! My mother can make hats too! I can ask her if--

LILY

(Stands pulling SARAH up and holds her at arms length)

It is a beautiful dress, the most beautiful I've ever seen!

WILLOW

(**To LILY**)

Are you feeling alright?

BETHANY

Sarah's dress is lovely but it's hardly the most beautiful dress you've ever seen! What about those fancy dresses in the shop windows? I remember it wasn't too long ago that you would fawn over them and dream about being a princess!

WILLOW

And we would play dress-up and go out into your mother's gardens and pretend to be captured by dragons and rescued by knights in armor!

SARAH

It's all that boy Winkie's fault! Ever since that night he came around, Lily has had her head in the clouds with dreams of holding hands and kissing and living (**Points towards the audience**) in a castle like the Baron's on the hill!

WILLOW

(**Points SARAH's arm to the front window**)

It's THAT way! And it WOULD be the castle on the hill! (**To LILY**) But Winkie's a poor boy and could never afford a castle! Why his clothes are made mostly of mud and forest leaves!

LILY

I don't care what his clothes are made of! (**Turns away**) He's a nice young fellow! And he's nice to me!

BETHANY

Yes, I suppose he's ok, but he's not as nice--

WILLOW

Or rich--

BETHANY

(**Frowns at WILLOW**)

--or rich, as Caducias!

(**LILY flinches in disgust**)

SARAH

I bet Winkie doesn't have fine clothes or horses or servants or long tables piled with hot food served to him every night like Caducias does either!

WILLOW

I hear there's always hot water at the castle to bathe in too!

BETHANY, WILLOW & SARAH

(Unison)

Ooh, bubble baths!

LILY

You want bubble baths? Eat lots of beans before you jump into the tub! You want warm water? Pee yourselves empty while your in there!

BETHANY, WILLOW & SARAH

(Shocked)

LILY!

BETHANY

(Looks out the door)

Lily! What if your father heard you!

WILLOW

What if her MOTHER heard her!

BETHANY

Lily, I've never heard you speak so! You almost sound like a grownup!

(Worried, SARAH and WILLOW back away from LILY)

BETHANY (Cont'd)

(Pulls SARAH & WILLOW back)

Oh stop it you two! It was bound to happen sooner or later!

WILLOW

What? What will happen?

(SARAH moves to LILY and puts her hand on LILY's forehead)

WILLOW (Cont'd)

Oh no! She's not sick is she? *(Pauses)* Is she going to die?

SARAH

(Drops to the floor weeping)

She's going to die! She's going to die! She'll never get to wear that dress my mother's going to make her because she's going to die!

(WILLOW kneels down to comfort her)

BETHANY

No, no, you ninnies! She's not going to die! *(Winks and nudges LILY)* But I bet she is sick or rather, I bet her heart's sick.

SARAH & WILLOW

Ohh!

BETHANY

Yup!

(SARAH and WILLOW 'tsk' and shake their heads. LILY sits despondently on the bed and stares out the window)

SARAH

So I can still tell my mother it's ok to make the dresses?

(BETHANY playfully slaps SARAH upon the head. WILLOW goes to BETHANY and points her thumb at LILY)

WILLOW

Does this mean that Lily won't be any fun anymore?

(LILY looks up at WILLOW who hides behind BETHANY)

LILY

Me? No fun anymore?

WILLOW

Lily, why are you thinking so much about a boy? And Winkie of all people! I knew you said Caducias liked you but you never really talked that way about boys before!

SARAH

She's right you know. At least not for more than a day or two.

(LILY stands and takes the HAND MIRROR from the BED and starts brushing her hair)

BETHANY

My friends, today is a sad day for us all. I believe that Lily is starting to grow up.

WILLOW

No Bethany! Not LILY!

SARAH

(Whines)

Who will wear the dress my mother's going to make?

LILY

(Sits, puts down the HAND MIRROR)

I don't know how I feel. I liked the way Winkie looked and talked to me. I sort of liked the way Caducias was until he went all--

(LILY quickly stands up and waves her hands above her head)

LILY (Cont'd)

--wacko! He scares me and makes me sick with his staring! Oh why couldn't Winkie be rich and powerful instead of poor and nice! Then he could push Caducias around *(Punctuates her words with punching jabs)* and give him what for!

(She swings at her imaginary CADUCIAS sending her spinning to land on her BED. The GIRLS cheer. LIGHTS come up in the room below. The WIFE hearing the girls above and makes her way upstairs) (27)

LILY (Cont'd)

It just seems lately that I'm thinking more about the little things. Things that I've ignored or just never noticed before.

(LILY stands pulling the MEDALLION from her BLOUSE)

(Cue MATTER TO ME MUSIC)

SARAH & WILLOW

Here she goes again with the singing.

BETHANY

Hush you two! Maybe you'll learn something!

LILY

(Singing)

Sometimes I wonder if it's really all worthwhile,
Working all day and night, for a penny and a smile,

(The WIFE looks in the room to check on the GIRLS and smiles when she sees all is well. LILY looks at her MOTHER)

LILY (Cont'd)

(Singing)

To wake up in the morning, and to see a smiling face,
To fall asleep at night dreaming of your embrace,

(The WIFE goes back downstairs)

LILY (Cont'd)

(Singing)

Am I wrong to want any more, from life than that,
Is there more to growing up--

SARAH

(Singing)

Than getting old and fat,

BETHANY

(Singing)

What if life were a story, that you could, with just a wish,
Spend your days without serving ale--

SARAH

(Speaking)

Or cleaning smelly fish,

LILY

(Singing)

But how can I live without my family,
I'm sure that I would miss those things that mean so much to
me,
There should be so much more, to life, than that,
I have all that I need--

(SARAH is about to interject)

WILLOW

(Singing)

And she's hardly ever sad,

(SARAH fumes and stomps her foot)

BETHANY

(Singing)

There are times that are hard, and some times that are bad,

WILLOW

(Speaking)

I don't always get what I want, and it makes me ever so mad,

(LILY picks up her HAND MIRROR from the BED and looks into it)

LILY

(Singing)

But then I look into a mirror, and I see her smile at me,

BETHANY

(Singing)

The girl becomes a woman, with responsibilities,

LILY

(Singing)

Maybe it's time I grow up, *(Puts down HAND MIRROR)*

SARAH

(Speaking, she pulls on LILY's arm)

But not too fast,

LILY

(Singing, she kisses SARAH's forehead)

And cherish all of those things that I know will last,

(BEDROOM LIGHT DIMS as LILY and the GIRLS go downstairs. LILY moves to the bar. The WIFE stands next to the TAVERNKEEPER)

LILY (Cont'd)

(Singing)

It's the little things that really matter to me,

(The FISHERMEN hum after the first line interrupting LILY's singing and she looks at them in a huff of playful indignation)

FISHERMEN

mm, mm, mm, (*Once*)

SARAH

(Singing)

Like hope and faith and trust and love,

LILY

(Singing)

That's all I really need,
Forget about the way I look, in someone else's eyes,

BETHANY

(Speaking)

This revelation,

WILLOW

(Speaking)

Or epiphany,

SARAH

(Speaking)

Is quite a surprise,

LILY

(Singing)

Maybe I'm finally growing up, and my eyes have opened wide,

(LILY quickly grabs hold of SARAH's shoulders and moves her in front facing the audience and points off in a random direction)

LILY (Cont'd)

(Singing)

I'm starting to see what I missed before,

(LILY quickly covers SARAH's mouth to prevent SARAH interrupting again)

LILY (Cont'd)

(Singing)

I just never took the time,

(SARAH's upset that she couldn't get the last line in and LILY quickly let's go and kisses her forehead in apology. The FISHERMEN begin to hum between verses and sway to the music)

FISHERMEN

mm, mm, mm, *(Twice)*

LILY

(Singing)

Why did I ever want more than I already have, *(Sits by the FIREPLACE)* To sit by a cozy fire. *(Points to FISHERMEN)*
And listen to them laugh,

FISHERMEN

(Deadpan)

Ha! ha! ha!

LILY

(Singing)

Yes upon occasion, they overdo their reverie,

FISHERMEN

(Raise their MUGS)

Yeah!

LILY

(Singing)

But all in all there is no other life I want for me, *(Stands, moves to bar)* I guess I must be growing up, for I just realized,
There is no better place than here, where I can live my life,

FISHERMEN

mm, mm, mm, *(Once)*

(The GIRLS lean over the FISHERMEN and hum in reprimand)

GIRLS

mm, mm, mm, *(Once)*

(With a satisfied nod of their heads, BETHANY and WILLOW move to either side of LILY. SARAH stands at the end of the bar)

BETHANY & WILLOW

(Singing)

There's only one thing left now, for you to do,
To go to the one who's holding your heart and tell him, I love
you, You'll love him,

SARAH

(Speaking disgusted)

You'll kiss him,

BETHANY & WILLOW

(Singing)

And you'll hold him tight,

LILY

(Singing)

And he'll do the same for me each and, *(Seductively)* every
night,

*(SARAH leans over making a face, sticks
her finger in her mouth and gags)*

LILY (Cont'd)

(Singing)

Through the days and the years, I'll do all I can,

BETHANY

(Singing)

With him by your side,

WILLOW

(Singing)

You won't really mind,

SARAH

(Yelling)

Growing old and getting fat,

*(The FISHERMEN laugh. LILY sits on the
stairs. The WIFE, BETHANY and WILLOW stand
next to SARAH. The TAVERNKEEPER stands
behind the FISHERMEN)*

BRUCE

(Speaking)

Maybe those little things, seem to matter to you,
As for the rest of us,

TAVERNKEEPER, STORYTELLER & FISHERMEN

(Speaking)

Hey! We've got more important things to do,

WILLIS

(Speaking)

Like telling bad jokes,

PALMER

(Speaking)

And cheating at cards,

TAVERNKEEPER

(Speaking)

And drinking lots of ale!

FISHERMEN

Yeah!

BRUCE

(Speaking)

So why don't you get over here,

BRUCE, PALMER & WILLIS

(Speaking)

And give us some free refills,

(Singing)

You dance around and go on and on,

(The FISHERMEN pantomime hands talking to each other)

BRUCE, PALMER & WILLIS (Cont'd)

(Singing)

About that, about this,

BRUCE

(Speaking)

When you really should be cooking supper-

(The TAVERNKEEPER does his lounge act - grabbing a FISH from the BASKET as a microphone)

TAVERNKEEPER

(Singing)

And cleaning those stupid fish-- yeah fish, *(MUSIC Stops)*

WIFE

(Smacks TAVERNKEEPER with her DISHRAG)

Are you quite finished? It's not YOUR song you know!

(The MUSIC RESTARTS and the FISHERMEN hum again. The GIRLS join in)

FISHERMEN & GIRLS

mm, mm, mm, *(Twice)*

WIFE

(Speaking)

Maybe those silly things really matter to you,

BETHANY

(Speaking)

But we think that we know better,

WILLOW

(Speaking)

And we've got nothing else to prove,

(The GIRLS put their arms around each other. LILY, sitting on the stairs during all this, laughs and claps)

WIFE

(Singing)

We have good friends to laugh with,

BETHANY, WILLOW, SARAH & WIFE

(Singing)

Ones we count upon,
To make the long days shorter way before the sun goes down,

(LILY moves to the window and pulls out the MEDALLION then sadly looks out the window. She starts to cry)

WIFE

(Singing)

So go back to your stupid games, to your food and to your drink,

(The GIRLS rush over to LILY. BETHANY gets there first and holds the others back)

BETHANY

(Singing)

She needs some time to be alone,

LILY

(Speaking)

I need some time, to think.

(LILY walks to the kitchen, pauses and looks at the MEDALLION. The GIRLS are bidden upstairs by the WIFE) (28)

MEN & GIRLS

mm, mm, mm, *(Once)*

LILY

(Singing)

It's the little things that really matter to me,

MEN & GIRLS

mm, mm, mm, *(Once)*

LILY

(Singing)

It's such a little thing, that really matters to me, *(She runs into the kitchen)*

(Fade MUSIC)

FISHERMEN & GIRLS

mm, mm, mm, *(Once)*

(The WIFE and TAVERNKEEPER follow LILY)

WILLIS

Now that's what I call theme music!

(BRUCE & PALMER clap WILLIS on the back)

BRUCE

(To PALMER)

Wait a minute! Cheating at cards eh? Why you! *(Beats PALMER)*

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 12 Parents

BRUCE

So Master Storyteller, where does that leave poor Lily now? Her heart is broken as are those of her parents who wish only for her happiness. How can such a sad tale be turned around? Where is the sunshine you promised us this dark evening?

STORYTELLER

Unfortunately, Lily is not the only one to have a broken heart. Those around us can suffer as we do when we're saddened. It may not be the same, but it hurts deeply nonetheless.

(Cue *IN ME MUSIC*)

(The STORYTELLER points to the kitchen doorway. The WIFE walks silently and slowly towards the back door. The TAVERN LIGHTS dim. She walks outside and stands centered in the garden where a SPOTLIGHT shines on her. The BEDROOM LIGHTS come up just enough to reveal the three GIRLS sitting on the BED - same amount as the Tavern room)

WIFE

My ocean is changing, I can feel the tide,
For my girl, who's crying inside,
How can I make,

GIRLS

Make,

WIFE

Her understand,

FISHERMEN

Understand,

WIFE

That she's all,

GIRLS

All,

That I am, WIFE

That I am, FISHERMEN

Deep in my heart, WIFE

Heart, GIRLS

I want her to stay, WIFE

Stay, FISHERMEN

But I know, love will lead her WIFE

Away All

From me, from me, WIFE

(Upstairs the GIRLS move near the edge of the floor. They sway to the music - like motown backup singers)

When she smiled, WIFE

Oh when she smiled, GIRLS

(The TAVERNKEEPER enters looking around, the FISHERMEN point at his WIFE. He goes and stands behind his WIFE. The FISHERMEN stand along the windows and begin to "dance" slowly)

She brushed away the clouds, WIFE
I kept her safe, from all the bad things around,
I saw the sun,

I saw the sun,
FISHERMEN

In her eyes,
WIFE

In her eyes,
GIRLS

I dried the tears,
WIFE

Tears,
FISHERMEN

When she cried,
WIFE

Oh when she cried,
GIRLS

Holding her close,
WIFE

Close,
FISHERMEN

When she falls,
And feeling the pain,
WIFE

Pain,
GIRLS & FISHERMEN

Of it all, in me, in me,
WIFE

(The TAVERNKEEPER moves next to his WIFE)

Throughout the days,
TAVERNKEEPER

Throughout the days,
GIRLS

And the years,
TAVERNKEEPER

FISHERMEN

And those long years,

TAVERNKEEPER

Watching the time, as it grew near, Waiting for silence,

GIRLS

(*Echoed*)

Silence,

FISHERMEN

(*Echoed*)

Silence,

TAVERNKEEPER

To descend all around, will laughter again,

GIRLS

Again,

TAVERNKEEPER

Again be found,

FISHERMEN

Again be found,

TAVERNKEEPER

Holding on tight,

GIRLS

Tight,

TAVERNKEEPER

To her heart,

FISHERMEN

To her heart,

TAVERNKEEPER

Waiting for one,

GIRLS & FISHERMEN

To pull her apart,

TAVERNKEEPER

From me, from me,

(LILY'S PARENTS dance during a verse of music. At the end of the dance, the TAVERNKEEPER will "dip" his WIFE and seem to strain his back and she'll help him stand, ending their dance. He'll put his arm around her and hold her close to begin the last verse of singing)

TAVERNKEEPER

I thought I knew, more than her heart,
I guess I'm nothin' more, than an old fart,

WIFE

But there were those times,

GIRLS

Times,

WIFE

I thought she would fall,

FISHERMEN

Thought she'd fall,

TAVERNKEEPER

But with our love,

GIRLS

Love,

TAVERNKEEPER

She came through it all,

FISHERMEN

She came through it all,

WIFE

And someday soon,

GIRLS

Soon,

WIFE

With little feet around,

FISHERMEN

All around,

Laughter once again,
TAVERNKEEPER & WIFE

Will be found,
ALL

In me, in me,
TAVERNKEEPER & WIFE

(Fade MUSIC)

(The FISHERMEN and the GIRLS sit. The TAVERNKEEPER & his WIFE hug and walk back inside. The SPOTLIGHT goes out and the Tavern LIGHTS come back up. The LIGHT upstairs goes out and the GIRLS exit via the closet) (29)

How is Lily doing?
BRUCE

(The TAVERNKEEPER stops as his WIFE continues into the kitchen)

She'll be fine, just fine. (Exits to kitchen)
TAVERNKEEPER

(Silence)

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 13 You've Got Mail

BRUCE

(To STORYTELLER)

Master Storyteller! Will you be able to finish this sad tale soon? After all, you did say it would be a story with all those things we asked for but you didn't say it would be filled with such sorrow!

STORYTELLER

Well, as I said before, the war raged on and there was to be one last battle that would end the war for one side or the other. Caducias waited hopefully for news of his father's death and waited for Lily to request him with an answer. So the last days of the war came and went and finally news came into town that the King was victorious!

(The FISHERMEN cheer)

PALMER

Caducias must have been sorely upset at that!

(The STORYTELLER looks down and sadly shakes his head)

STORYTELLER

Alas! News also came that the Baron was mortally wounded in battle. He fell before the war was won. Caducias was overjoyed beyond himself and made ready to officially assume the barony.

(The FISHERMEN fall silent. The STORYTELLER stands)

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

Ah, given up all hope have you? Well take heart! For the next day, Lily received news also.

(He waves his arm towards the front door and LILY comes bursting into the tavern smiling)

LILY

Mother! Father!

(The TAVERNKEEPER and his WIFE come rushing into the room)

TAVERNKEEPER

What! What! What is wrong? Are you hurt?

(LILY's mother grabs her and checks her over. LILY holds out a LETTER and waves it around)

WIFE

Did Blaeshue touch you my dear?

LILY

No! No! I'm alright! I have wonderful news!

(She hands the WIFE the LETTER and the WIFE reads it)

LILY (Cont'd)

I was on my way home from Bethany's and a courier just came and gave this to me out front! It's from William! He's alive and coming home!

(She spins around giggling and laughing. The TAVERNKEEPER turns to his WIFE)

TAVERNKEEPER

Who's this William?

WIFE

I don't know! *(Looks at LILY)* LILY! Stop for a moment and tell us who this William is!

LILY

Oh mother! He's a wonderful brave young man! He's so very kind and funny! He's alive! And he's coming home!

WIFE

I don't understand dear!

(The WIFE and TAVERNKEEPER look back down at the LETTER)

LILY

I've got to tell the Girls! Wait until they hear! William will get a big apology from them!

(LILY exits through the front door. The TAVERNKEEPER looks at his friends. His WIFE continues to read)

TAVERNKEEPER

Do any of you know what she's talking about?
Who's this William fellow?

BRUCE

(Chuckling)

From the looks of things, he is someone who Lily is very fond of!

PALMER

(To BRUCE)

He's that young man from the forest she asked about weeks ago.

TAVERNKEEPER

The forest! Some grubby little boy! My daughter loves some grubby little--

WIFE

(Reading, holds hand up)

Hush! Quiet!

(She hands the LETTER to the TAVERNKEEPER)

WIFE (Cont'd)

You better read this.

TAVERNKEEPER

(Takes the LETTER)

It had better be good! I've got more important things to do than read some silly love letter!

WILLIS

(Singing)

Like telling bad jokes, and cheating at cards, and--

(PALMER smacks WILLIS)

TAVERNKEEPER

Dear Lily, blah, blah, blah, um-- Sorry to leave in such a hurry, blah, blah, blah, blah. I made it to the front in time to-- *(Pauses)* MEET UP WITH THE KINGS ARMY!

WIFE

(Takes the LETTER and continues reading)

There were some mistakes I made before that but all is well now. I will be coming home soon and hope to see you again. p.s. I've made a new friend and will be bringing him home too. p.p.s. I hate to say this but because of things of which I will tell you about later when we meet, I've now been granted a position of Knight in the Kings army but I really don't know if that's what I want. I'm sorry I can't write more, I'm being summoned by the King. Yours, William. *(Looks up)* It looks like he didn't get to finish what he was writing. *(Amazed)* Summoned by the King himself!

TAVERNKEEPER

A Knight! In my tavern of all places! And Lily KNOWS him!

(The TAVERNKEEPER pulls BRUCE from his CHAIR and sits)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

(Stunned)

My Lily knows a Knight! *(Jumps up)* And the Knight knows the King!

(He grabs his WIFE and begins to dance in a circle. She resists but begins to dance and laugh along)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

Our Lily knows a Knight! Our Lily knows a Knight!

(She chants along. Enter CADUCIAS and his HENCHMEN. The dancing stops)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

(Laughing)

Lord Blaeshue! Welcome! Welcome! Come in, come in! Your early this evening! Come to see Lily again I suppose?

(CADUCIAS looks around confused)

WIFE

(Happy)

Lily has not an answer for you this night-- *(Bows sarcastically)* my lord.

CADUCIAS

What goes on here? What mischief abounds? I well know none of you are happy to see me at any time! Why your cursed smiles now?

WIFE

Business that's none of yours! It's good news and there's no place for YOU in it and no room for LILY in yours!

CADUCIAS

What do you mean by that? Has Lily said something to you? Where is she! Where's my answer! I've been more than patient enough with her! If you haven't heard, my father has died in the war and I shall assume responsibility of the barony and all it's POWER! And I'll be more than happy to use it!

WIFE

(Shakes the LETTER in his face)

And I'll be more than happy enough to use WILLIAM to--

TAVERNKEEPER

(Grabs her arm)

Enough WIFE! It's none of his business and may not be any of ours!

CADUCIAS

What's that? A letter?

WIFE

(Puts the LETTER behind her back)

None of your beeswax!

CADUCIAS

A letter? From Lily? To ME perhaps! Maybe it's her answer and your trying to hide it from me? If it is, you had better hand it over! *(Holds out his hand)*

WIFE

It's not for YOU! Nothing in this house is for you except spite and loathing! There are happier times coming to our home and none of it has to do with YOU!

CADUCIAS

(Steps forward, hand on SWORD HILT)

I WILL have my answer!

WIFE

(In his face)

Your answer is Lily has found another!

TAVERNKEEPER

WIFE! Enough! Your tongue wags too much about Lily's heart!

(The TAVERNKEEPER covers his mouth)

CADUCIAS

Another eh? *(Paces the floor)* So Lily has found another--

WIFE

Lily's business is her own and you'll do right to stay out of it!

CADUCIAS

It's no wonder she has yet to give me an answer! And all of you laughing at me while I sat and ate your foul FOOD every night! You knew all along didn't you! You took my money and you played me for a FOOL!

BRUCE

(Nonchalantly)

You were born to the part it seems.

(CADUCIAS screams and draws his SWORD to cut BRUCE down. The others back away. BRUCE picks up a CHAIR)

CADUCIAS

I'll have your heart!

(DIBBLES and RITZ hold CADUCIAS' back)

DIBBLES

Witnesses my lord! Not with witnesses around!

CADUCIAS

(Straining)

I'll gut you like a fish!

RITZ

Remember my lord! Where no one can see or hear my lord!?!

(CADUCIAS calms. DIBBLES and RITZ let go. CADUCIAS sheaths his SWORD)

CADUCIAS

Yes-- where no one can see or hear--

(CADUCIAS storms out the front door followed by his HENCHMEN. BRUCE & PALMER sit)

WILLIS

Whew! That was close!

BRUCE

Easy for you to say! He wasn't coming at you with a sword!

PALMER

It seems now that William will have to deal with Blaeshue whether he wants to or not!

WILLIS

But Blaeshue doesn't know who William is or what he looks like so he'll be safe for a short while!

TAVERNKEEPER

No one but Lily seems to know this boy-- uh, KNIGHT!
(Slaps his forehead) He's a Knight! I just can't believe Lily knows a Knight!

WIFE

And no one-- *(Pausing, she points to everyone)* NO ONE! Is to say a word of this until Lily herself decides the matter!

(Taking the LETTER and her husband's hand, she leads him - still mumbling "Knight" - into the kitchen)

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 14 Pickles and Shadows

(WILLIS walks over to the bar and looks at the PICKLE. He picks it up and inspects it. BRUCE looks at the STORYTELLER)

BRUCE

Master Storyteller, will you now finish this tale?

(BRUCE notices WILLIS playing with the PICKLE)

BRUCE

WILLIS! Don't touch that!

(Startled, WILLIS looks around to see what BRUCE is talking about then holds up the PICKLE)

WILLIS

What? This? Why not? It's just a pickle on a string!

(WILLIS puts it around his neck. BRUCE & PALMER gasp in alarm knocking over their CHAIRS as they stand. The STORYTELLER turns away trying not to laugh)

PALMER

WILLIS NO! Not the PICKLE! *(Faints dramatically)*

BRUCE

(To PALMER)

Oh get up! You're not fooling anybody!

(PALMER gets up, TAVERNKEEPER enters)

BRUCE

Don't move boy! Whatever you do, for heaven's sake, don't MOVE!

PALMER

Now you've done it! You don't know what you're dealing with!

(PALMER and BRUCE back away in fear. WILLIS looking very confused, steps back)

WILLIS

What? This? (*Holds up the PICKLE*) It's juat a pickle?

(*BRUCE & PALMER scream and quickly hunch over and cover their heads*)

BRUCE

It's not just ANY pickle Willis!

PALMER

It's dangerous! You'll kill us all!

(*WILLIS looks at the TAVERNKEEPER who's trying very hard not to laugh and sees WILLIS looking at him in confusion*)

TAVERNKEEPER

(*Startled*)

Yes! Dangerous! (*Ducks behind the bar*) Very dangerous indeed!

BRUCE

Put it away! Put it away before we all--

WIFE

(*Enters*)

What's all the noise? What are you DOING! Get up! Get UP!
GET UP OR GET OUT!

(*She kicks BRUCE & PALMER. She moves to stand in front of WILLIS*)

WIFE (Cont'd)

You're an idiot aren't you?

(*WILLIS tries to answer. She puts her hand over his mouth*)

WIFE (Cont'd)

No! Don't say anything! You'll shatter the illusion!

(*BRUCE & PALMER sit. The TAVERNKEEPER stands chuckling. The WIFE waves the PICKLE in WILLIS's face*)

WIFE (Cont'd)

What in the world are you doing with this?

WILLIS

Don't touch that! It's dangerous!

(He slips out of the STRING and ducks under the bar)

WILLIS (Cont'd)

Ahhh! I don't want to die! I'm too young!

(The WIFE pulls him up)

WIFE

I didn't think it was an illusion! You ARE an idiot! *(Looks around)* You're ALL IDIOTS!

(She hangs the PICKLE back on WILLIS' neck and grabs the BASKET from the bar and turns to her husband)

WIFE (Cont'd)

Nice job cleaning these fish! I knew I could count on you!

(She storms off to the kitchen with the BASKET. The TAVERNKEEPER looks shamed. WILLIS stands very still with the PICKLE around his neck)

WILLIS

Uh, help!

BRUCE

Help with what?

WILLIS

The pickle! Get it off me! Get it off me before it goes off or something!

(PALMER goes to WILLIS and takes off the PICKLE)

PALMER

What's the matter boy? *(Waves the PICKLE in front of WILLIS's nose)* It's just a pickle!

(He tosses the PICKLE to BRUCE, laughing that it'll doom them all then sits)

WILLIS

I'll get you guys for that! You made me look like an idiot there!

BRUCE

'twas not us boy!

PALMER

It's true! It's a natural talent you have, it cannot be given!

BRUCE

Indeed! You should be proud! Not many have such gifts!

STORYTELLER

If only such gifts were more common these days, there'd be more laughter in the world! Alas it is not to be it seems.

WILLIS

So-- what your saying is, I help people laugh and make the world a better place?

TAVERNKEEPER

(Stands next to WILLIS and puts his hand on WILLIS' shoulder)

Aye! And such laughter is welcome here! Now sit and be at ease! Master Storyteller, will you now finish your tale? The sun will be up soon and--

STORYTELLER

Yes, yes! I'll need to be on my way! I know, I know! Well now, where was I again?

(He mumbles to himself. WILLIS picks up the PICKLE and inspects it)

WILLIS

I'd like to know why all of you made such a fuss over the pickle! Why does it hang there? What is its significance? Why the string?

STORYTELLER

Indeed! Why don't you men go play pickle with Willis while I gather my thought's. I'm not as young as I used to be you know!

(The FISHERMEN nod and stand)

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

(Sits)

TAVERNKEEPER! A fresh refill if you please!

(TAVERNKEEPER exits to kitchen with MUGS)

WILLIS

But what about the story? Will there be time enough for both the pickle and the story?

STORYTELLER

(Waves them to the door)

Yes, yes! I'll work it in while you play! Now be off with you!

(BRUCE grabs the BOW and they go outside. SPOTLIGHTS come on covering the 2 ends of the stage. The Tavern room lights dim)

BRUCE

Ok Willis, now you take the pickle and hang it around your neck and go stand over there.

(BRUCE points WILLIS to the far end of the stage. He goes and turns)

WILLIS

Now what?

BRUCE

Start swinging the pickle back and forth!

(WILLIS spins the PICKLE around his neck)

PALMER

No, no, no! Just an easy swaying motion back and forth!

WILLIS

(Sways PICKLE)

Now what?

(BRUCE raises the BOW and aims)

WILLIS (Cont'd)

(Stops, alarmed)

WAIT! Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait!

PALMER

(To BRUCE)

He's right you know! You're missing something!

BRUCE

(Slaps forehead)

Oh silly me! Who's got an arrow?

(They look around and check their pockets)

BRUCE

Master Storyteller! Would you happen to have an arrow?

(The STORYTELLER goes to his SACK and searching, pulls out a dead [rubber] CHICKEN and holds it up)

STORYTELLER

Will this do?

(He hands it to BRUCE through the window then sits back down)

BRUCE

Well, I've shot many things in my time but this is a new one!

WILLIS

You're going to shoot me with a chicken!?!

PALMER

Don't be ridiculous! He's not going to shoot you!

WILLIS

Ah, well that's ok then!

PALMER

He's going to shoot the pickle!

WILLIS

WHAT!?!

PALMER

Don't be a baby! You don't see the pickle complaining do you?

WILLIS

Well, I suppose not. But-- do I have to watch?

(BRUCE & PALMER converse quietly)

BRUCE

Ok, we've got a plan! Turn around and close your eyes!

WILLIS

(Thinking)

Well, if you think it's best.

BRUCE & PALMER

YES!

(WILLIS turns around)

PALMER

Now in order for this to work, you'll need to bend over!

WILLIS

Why?

PALMER

Because we can't see your pickle! And don't forget to swing it back and forth too!

*(WILLIS shrugs and bends over legs wide.
He swings the PICKLE)*

BRUCE

(Aims BOW)

Alright! Are you ready?

WILLIS

(Jumps up)

WAIT! Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait!

PALMER

What now!?!

WILLIS

This won't hurt will it?

BRUCE

Don't worry, the pickle won't feel a thing! I promise!

WILLIS

Oh ok!

(WILLIS resumes his position. BRUCE sights upon WILLIS)

WILLIS (Cont'd)

Ok! Go ahead!

(Lighting note: ALL the LIGHTS should DIM and eventually go completely OUT when WILLIS "finally" closes his eyes during this next segment)

WILLIS (Cont'd)

I'm closing my eyes!

(All the LIGHTS dim)

BRUCE

Make sure you close them all the way! And NO PEEKING!
You really don't want to see what's about to happen!

WILLIS

Ok! I'm closing them now!

(All the LIGHTS go out. BRUCE will toss the CHICKEN behind the curtain)

BRUCE

Alright! On the count of three! *(Slowly)* One, two, three!

(In unison, BRUCE & PALMER will say "TWANG" on "four" and then they'll "squawk" loudly a second later and then a LOUD YELL will come from the darkness in WILLIS' direction. The yell is from CADUCIAS' standing behind the curtain near WILLIS)

PALMER

Open your eyes boy!

(The LIGHTS come back on revealing WILLIS bent over. He stands quickly - eyes wide and panting. He checks himself over)

PALMER

Why did you yell out? Bruce didn't even hit you!

BRUCE

(Points to side bushes)

The chicken went into the bushes. It seems a chicken does not make for a very good arrow!

PALMER

It needed its feather's. An arrow can't fly properly without feathers!

(The tavern room lights come back up and the STORYTELLER bekons to the FISHERMEN)

PALMER

Come! The STORYTELLER waits for us inside!

(BRUCE & PALMER enter and BRUCE hangs up the BOW, then they sit. WILLIS stands for a moment and looks around in confusion)

WILLIS

But I didn't yell. *(Enters and hangs up the PICKLE then sits)*

BRUCE (Cont'd)

Please Master Storyteller, continue if you would.

STORYTELLER

Ah, my friends! I've never stopped telling the story! It seems that while those silly fishermen in the tavern were enjoying their games and ale, a dark figure had crept silently upon the tavern and made his way close in order to spy on Lily.

WILLIS

CADUCIAS! It could only be him the fiend!

PALMER

No doubt come with evil intent for Lily!

(LIGHT comes on, centered on the garden. CADUCIAS, DIBBLES and RITZ appear)

CADUCIAS

(Limps from a CHICKEN STUCK THROUGH HIS LEG. The 2nd RUBBER CHICKEN is CUT IN HALF and SEW TO EITHER SIDE OF THE PANTS LEG)

Blasted fishermen and their stupid games!

DIBBLES

My Lord! Why are we here?

CADUCIAS

Because, something is not right and that stupid girl should have given me her answer long ago! She's received a letter from someone named William and I mean to know what's in it!

DIBBLES

Maybe she'll tell someone about it, a friend maybe? You plan on overhearing her somehow or stealing the letter?

RITZ

My lord! I have a great idea! You can climb to the roof and spy on her through her bedroom window!

CADUCIAS

(Grabs RITZ and pulls him close)

Climb to the roof? *(To audience)* Evil help is so hard to find nowadays. *(Turns back to RITZ)* Climb-to-the-roof!?!

(He pushes RITZ away then points to his leg with the CHICKEN stuck through it)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Do you see this? *(Grabs DIBBLES by the ear)* Do you think that I'll be able to climb to the roof with this!

RITZ

Well, at least we'll have chicken for supper tonight!
(Pulls on the CHICKEN)

CADUCIAS

(Screams, releases DIBBLES)

OW! Let GO! *(Struggles with RITZ)* Let go of me you euphemism!
(Pushes RITZ away) Get away from me!

DIBBLES

Would you like ME to try my lord?

CADUCIAS

(Screams sarcastically)

No I don't want you to try my lord! *(Hops around)* And how am I supposed to be better off with you two helping me?

DIBBLES

Well, *(Points to CHICKEN)* We can-- COOK that chicken for you!

RITZ

Yes! Chicken! Yum! (*Reaches for the CHICKEN*)

CADUCIAS

(*Draws SWORD*)

Don't even think it!

(*DIBBLES and RITZ back off*)

DIBBLES

Well, my lord, what will you do now?

(*CADUCIAS peeks through the window. Inside, the FISHERMEN [silently] talk and play CARDS. The WIFE enters from the kitchen and [silently] talks with the FISHERMEN then the TAVERNKEEPER enters with a small SCARECROW*)

CADUCIAS

Blast it all! I can't hear what their saying! Carry me to the door!

(*DIBBLES & RITZ carry CADUCIAS. Inside, the WIFE takes the SCARECROW and looks it over. CADUCIAS stands in front of the back door and peeks through the window. The WIFE finishes inspecting the SCARECROW and kisses her husband and walks towards the garden door. CADUCIAS sees her coming and calls softly to his HENCHMEN*)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Get back! Hide you fools! She's coming outside!

(*Seeing no place to hide, CADUCIAS puts his back against the doorway. DIBBLES rolls off the wall to land below and RITZ skulks down in the shadows of the stairs. The WIFE comes to the door and tries to open it but it seems stuck. She rattles the door and CADUCIAS on the other side attempts to hold the door shut. The WIFE turns and [silently] gestures to the FISHERMEN that the door is stuck and they [silently] converse with each other and then they make kicking gestures*)

(She turns to the door giving it a swift kick which opens it sending CADUCIAS [in a swinging arc with the door] down the stairs onto the floor. The WIFE comes out and swings the door a few times. She shrugs, goes to her FLOWERS and looks at the SCARECROW. She holds it up)

WIFE

(To SCARECROW)

You know, he's really a good sort and comes through when he's needed, at least most of the time. *(Places the SCARECROW among the FLOWERS)* Look at you for instance! Why I'm sure you'll do just fine tomorrow!

(CADUCIAS moans painfully. The WIFE peers into the darkness. CADUCIAS moans again)

WIFE (Cont'd)

What's this? What's this? Cats in heat? Not in MY yard you don't!

(CADUCIAS moans again)

WIFE (Cont'd)

Go away! There's no cats around here for you to play with! *(Grabs ROCKS from the garden)* Now go away and stay away! (30)

(The WIFE flings the "ROCKS" into the darkness hitting CADUCIAS who groans one last time. Smiling, she brushes off her hands and goes inside)

TAVERNKEEPER

Well, how does it look?

WIFE

You did a wonderful job! I think it will work quite nicely!

(She heads to the kitchen, stopping to kiss her husbands cheek. She exits. The FISHERMEN tease him. DIBBLES and RITZ drag CADUCIAS up the stairs sitting him on the top step) (31)

DIBBLES

Do you think he's ok?

RITZ

I don't know, is he dead?

DIBBLES

Maybe. He hasn't fallen over yet though.

RITZ

It could be rigor mortis has set in. Maybe some aspirin might help?

(DIBBLES and RITZ check their pockets for aspirin. The WIFE pokes her head through the kitchen doorway)

WIFE

(To TAVERNKEEPER)

Can you please take a look at the back door? It was stuck. I might have damaged it when I forced it open.

TAVERNKEEPER

Of course dear heart! Right away!

WIFE

And I heard some cats in the shadows out there! If you hear them again just throw some rocks at them! I don't want any cats in heat knocking over the trash bins and making a mess!

TAVERNKEEPER

Of course dear!

(The WIFE exits. The TAVERNKEEPER goes to the door and noisily turns the HANDLE)

DIBBLES

Oh no! Someone's coming out!

RITZ

What do we do?

DIBBLES

(Smiling)

Hide of course!

(DIBBLES and RITZ hide)

TAVERNKEEPER

Hmm, it seems to be ok.

*(Opens the door knocking CADUCIAS
down the stairs)*

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

(Swings the door a few times)

It seems to work just fine.

(CADUCIAS moans)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

Ah CATS! *(Grabs ROCKS)* Here kitty! Nice kitty! Come to papa!

*(CADUCIAS moans and the TAVERNKEEPER
throws until he runs out of ROCKS)*

TAVERNKEEPER

(Hearing nothing, he enters the tavern)

All better!

BRUCE

Cats?

TAVERNKEEPER

Not anymore!

*(DIBBLES and RITZ drag CADUCIAS up the
stairs and sit him on the top step. RITZ
climbs past CADUCIAS and peers through the
window. The FISHERMEN are [silently]
talking)*

DIBBLES

(Points at CADUCIAS)

Well, at least we got paid before this happened!

RITZ

Hush! Maybe we'll hear something!

*(DIBBLES scampers up the stairs knocking
CADUCIAS back down the stairs)*

BRUCE

As I was saying, if this William that Lily is so fond of comes back here, he'll have to come back by the main road.

WILLIS

It would be the quickest way. Maybe we should get word to him somehow of Caducias?

PALMER

How? We know not what he looks like!

TAVERNKEEPER

Well this is a funny thing. Lily told her mother and she told me that he wore not armor but pots and pans! (**Chuckles**)
Now that would be a sight! Maybe he wants to be a cook!

WILLIS

Well, the noise would surely give him away!

BRUCE

Why worry? Caducias doesn't know of him and he's sure to come directly here I bet! Lily seems to be the important thing to him judging by his letter and I can't see him stopping for anything else.

(TAVERNKEEPER exits with the MUGS. DIBBLES and RITZ turn to CADUCIAS)

DIBBLES

My lord we-- My lord?

RITZ

Where'd he go?

(CADUCIAS moans. DIBBLES and RITZ drag him out to the middle of the floor and prop him against the wall)

DIBBLES

Good news my lord! We know where that William fellow will be!

RITZ

(Pats CADUCIAS on his head)

And there's no doors to hit your poor head on either!

DIBBLES

Maybe we should take him home first and then tell him?

RITZ

Yes! And while he's asleep, we can go through his pockets!

*(They exit up the aisle, roughly dragging
CADUCIAS along who moans)*

BRUCE

That was very good Master Storyteller!

PALMER

A few more hits to the head would have been more to my liking!

WILLIS

I liked the rock part! (*Imitates throwing rocks*) Bam! Bam!

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 15 Friends and Rabbits

BRUCE

Was that the end of Blaeshue? Is he gone from Lily and William's life now?

STORYTELLER

Unfortunately no. But his men did bring him home and they did go through his pockets!

PALMER

And what did they find?

STORYTELLER

Why the very same thing he always kept in his heart! Nothing!

WILLIS

Serves them right!

BRUCE

Well, did William finally come back and meet with Lily?

WILLIS

Did they marry and have kids and live happily ever after?

PALMER

No one who has kids lives happily ever after!

STORYTELLER

True, but many come very close! No my friends, Lily and William did not meet-- yet! It seems that Caducias still lived and he was sorely mad! His henchmen told him of what they overheard in the tavern and he made plans for William. (**Moves to and points out the window**) He made them set up an ambush along the road beyond the hills of the town. There they waited to waylay William and send him to a final rest under the cold damp leaves of the forest.

(Tavern LIGHTS DIM, a SPOTLIGHT shines on the center floor area. Down the aisle limps CADUCIAS, the CHICKEN still in his leg. A BANDAGE badly wrapped around it and another BANDAGE on his head. Behind him are DIBBLES and RITZ, each carrying a LARGE SACK)

CADUCIAS

(Stops at center stage floor)

Here is a good spot! *(Points up the aisle)* You'll be able to spot anyone coming down the road well in advance and put this William down like the dog he is! I'll not be cheated again! I'm sick and tired of those fools making a fool of me! When he comes over that rise, you'll finish him off and then Lily will have no choice but the one I make for her!

RITZ

It will be easy my lord!

CADUCIAS

That reminds me, I don't understand why that stupid little girl never gave me an answer!

(He pauses then turns away and then quickly back)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

She never fell madly in love with me! Why, it's unheard of!

(Grabs RITZ and pulls him close ala' the Grinch and his dog)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

She should have swooned right before my eyes!

(Turns away briefly then back)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Those despicable peasants should have been cowering in fear!

(Turns away and back again)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

But No! They made sport of me and never once gave me the respect I deserved!

(Pushes RITZ away. Sighing, he puts his head into his hands)

(Cue WHY NOT ME MUSIC)

RITZ

There, there my lord! All is not lost! There's still time to put the fear of you in them!

DIBBLES

Yes my lord! You'll get them back in the end!

CADUCIAS

(Singing)

I can't believe the things they say, I just don't understand,

CADUCIAS

Why they hate me so much,
I'm just the son of a kindly ruling man,
What have I done to rate that abuse, why are they so cruel,
It's not my fault they don't see the way I do,

HENCHMEN

(Singing)

It's not that you don't have a soft spot in your heart,
For all the things they go through,

(CADUCIAS is surprised at their words then realizes the joke and they all break out laughing)

CADUCIAS

(Singing)

They'll wake up one morning, and they'll quickly realize,
That I'll be running this town, oh won't they be surprised,
I've got some changes to make around here,
I've got some things in mind,
Not like my father, he's way too soft, he's been way too kind,

HENCHMEN

(Singing)

You'll let the people know, they can see you anytime,
With all their sorrows and their woes,

(They laugh again)

DIBBLES

(Singing)

It's not that you don't care,

RITZ

(Singing)

It's not that you don't see,

CADUCIAS

(Singing)

I care just enough to see that everything will belong to me,
Soon there will come a time,

DIBBLES & RITZ

(Singing)

When you hold all that power and money,

CADUCIAS

(Singing)

I'll rule the land, the people,
My days will be bright and sunny,

HENCHMEN

(Singing)

Your humble and your wise, you'll be so sweet and very kind,
The people all will love you,

CADUCIAS

(Speaking)

Oh yes they will!

(They laugh again)

DIBBLES

(Speaking)

But what about the girl my lord?

RITZ

(Speaking)

Yes my lord! The *(Rubs hands together expectantly)* Girl!

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

(Singing)

As for that silly little girl, who does she think she is,
I'll only use her for a day then I'll cancel the marriage,

DIBBLES

(Singing)

You should keep her for at least two days,

RITZ

(Singing)

Then after you've had your way,

CADUCIAS

(Singing)

I'll send her back home, where she can grow old and grey,

HENCHMEN

(Singing)

There's so many more important things, to take up all your time, but you can have it all,

CADUCIAS

(Speaking)

And why shouldn't I, *(Singing)* why not me, why not me,

(Fade MUSIC. CADUCIAS repeatedly sings "why not me" dreamily)

DIBBLES

(Pokes CADUCIAS)

Um, my lord?

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

What? Oh yes. Well, have you got all that you need?

RITZ

Yes my lord! We've taken care of everything and just need but a few moments to make ourselves ready!

DIBBLES

(Holds up SACK)

All is in the bag so to speak my lord!

CADUCIAS

Ah, something wicked and painful I suppose! Rattlesnakes?

DIBBLES

No my lord.

CADUCIAS

Hmm, venomous spiders?

RITZ

No my lord.

CADUCIAS

Going to place garroting wire across the road?

DIBBLES

No my lord.

CADUCIAS

Poison gas?

RITZ

No my lord.

CADUCIAS

What then! Are you going set a table and feed him rotted meat? Give him a wedgie? Perhaps set his watch back an hour? WHAT?

(DIBBLES and RITZ look at each other)

RITZ

Hmm-- no my lord. But we'll certainly look into it!

DIBBLES

Don't worry my lord! We've done this many times my lord!

CADUCIAS

Very well. I'll leave you 'experts' to your work. (*Exits*)

RITZ

Well we better get started, it's getting dark and we don't know how long we'll be waiting.

DIBBLES

Indeed! Let's go there behind those bushes and get ready!

(DIBBLES & RITZ exit. WILLIAM, DRESSED IN POTS, and carrying a well used SPATULA, BOW and a FOAM ARROW, comes walking down the aisle. WILLIAM is accompanied by SQUIRE TIM, who carries a WALKING STAFF and a BELT POUCH. He jumps excitedly around WILLIAM as they slowly walk down the aisle)

SQUIRE TIM

Oh I STILL can't believe it! What luck I've had!

WILLIAM

Enough!

SQUIRE TIM

A squire to a Knight! And the Knight that won the war!

WILLIAM

Shut up!

SQUIRE TIM

The Knight decorated by the King himself!

WILLIAM

Give it a rest already!

SQUIRE TIM

I got to see the King! I got to see the King!

**(WILLIAM stops and bows his head
defeatedly)**

SQUIRE TIM (Cont'd)

(Dances around WILLIAM singing adlib)

I got to see the King and I'm on the road with his very own Knight! And I'm on the road and I'm on the road--

WILLIAM

(Grabs TIM and shakes him)

Enough already! Haven't you sung enough! It's been 2 days now and you haven't shut up yet! You know you even sing in your sleep! I can't even water the dragon without you singing my praises! I didn't do anything! It was an accident!

SQUIRE TIM

But Sir! You won the war! You saved the kingdom! You defeated a whole regiment - and by yourself too!

WILLIAM

Fine! You really want to know what I did? I got lost in the woods is what I did! I wandered for days and I came into the Kings camp! But I didn't know it was the wrong King! I thought it was the right King! Our King! They thought I was the cook from my armor! I wandered into the camp and the real cook saw how I was dressed and then ran away laughing! I yelled after him why he was running and he yelled back, "We're losing the war and I'll not lose my head!". So I thought to myself, what am I to cook? I mean, I didn't know then I was in the wrong camp! I wanted to help our King! So I made the only thing I could think of.

SQUIRE TIM

And what was that?

WILLIAM

Vegetable soup. I gathered all the greens I could find from the woods and boiled them up for the men's supper.

SQUIRE TIM

And that was so bad!?!

WILLIAM

How was I to know what poison ivy looked like? It was dark out when I gathered the stuff! All the camp food was gone!

SQUIRE TIM

Oh my goodness!

WILLIAM

And the lumpy bits they thought were dumplings in the soup wound up being deer droppings mixed in with the green stuff!

SQUIRE TIM

Oh my!

WILLIAM

I didn't have the heart to tell them I didn't put dumplings in the soup! I just rummaged around in the dark picking up things and I guess I grabbed too much! But it wasn't my fault! I tried my best! Honestly I did! (**Pauses**) I guess I'm just not a very good cook.

SQUIRE TIM

But it turned out that it was the wrong army!

WILLIAM

Yes, and the Kings army, our King--

SQUIRE TIM

Came to the final attack and saw the enemy strewn all about helpless!

WILLIAM

Oh they were strewned alright! They strewned on each other and their armor and the grass. They even strewned in their pants! There wasn't enough soap and water to wash away all that strewn!

SQUIRE TIM

And you're not happy about this? You won the WAR MAN!

WILLIAM

True-- but I'm a bad cook.

SQUIRE TIM

It was a brave thing you did either way. You fought for what you thought was right and saved many lives on both sides. You set off into the unknown alone and--

WILLIAM

And got lost!

SQUIRE TIM

Maybe so, but now your a hero! A Knight! And I'm your squire as decreed by the King himself!

WILLIAM

He didn't decree you! You just happened to be standing there and he told you to carry my things because my hands were too itchy for me to hold anything!

SQUIRE TIM

It all amounts to the same thing! It's still good luck anyway you look at it! For me and for you! I carry your stuff and sing your praises and YOU save the day! (**Pauses**) How are your hands anyway? Still itchy?

WILLIAM

(Wipes hands on his PANTS)

Not as bad.

SQUIRE TIM

Good because it's getting dark and I'm getting hungry!

(TIM looks in his BAG. DIBBLES and RITZ - dressed as BUNNY RABBITS with SWORD and SACK at their sides, enter from the side, each with a makeshift BUSH BLIND) (32)

SQUIRE TIM (Cont'd)

There's not much left, barely enough to feed a rabbit! We might have to hunt for supper tonight as I don't think we'll get to your town anytime soon! I'll gather some wood and start us a fire. (33)

(TIM walks up the aisle and around into the right side of the audience and looks for wood. WILLIAM does the same but to the left side. SPOTLIGHTS follow them)

DIBBLES

That's him! It has to be! See the pans and pots! Ok, now you go over to that side of the road and I'll wait here and when he comes between us, we'll smack him good!

(RITZ nods and scampers to the other 'side' of the floor)

WILLIAM

(Sees RITZ)

I think I just saw a rabbit! *(Astounded)* And a mighty big one at that!

(TIM stands and WILLIAM points to RITZ. BUNNY EARS poke above the BUSH)

SQUIRE TIM

Take your bow and bring it down so we can feast like kings tonight! *(TIM looks around for some wood)* Drat! Still no wood! What kind of forest is this anyway!

WILLIAM

(Yells to TIM)

I don't know if I can hit it. I've never fired a bow before!

(TIM walks through the audience looking for wood. He yells to WILLIAM)

SQUIRE TIM

Nonsense! You've won a war and you can't fire a bow? Hurry UP!

WILLIAM

Well, ok, I'll try.

(Holds the BOW backwards and sets the ARROW to the BOW. The "RABBITS" EARS quiver. WILLIAM can't get a good sighting and moves further into the audience)

WILLIAM (Cont'd)

(Loudly)

I can't seem to get a good bead on the rabbit!

RITZ
(*Looks up*)

HUH!?!

SQUIRE TIM
Do your best! I'm sure you'll get him right in the head!

RITZ
(*Stands*)

WHAT!?!

WILLIAM
I see the rabbit! I see him!

SQUIRE TIM
Good! Shoot! SHOOT! I WANT RABBIT TONIGHT!

(*WILLIAM fires backwards and misses*)

RITZ
WHEW!

WILLIAM
Blast it all! I missed! And that was my only arrow!

SQUIRE TIM
(*Goes to WILLIAM through audience*)
Where's the rabbit?

WILLIAM
(*Pointing*)
Just about there, can you see it?

SQUIRE TIM
No, there's too many trees in the way.

WILLIAM
Well, what if we just run at it? After all, there's two of us and it's only a rabbit! How hard can it be to catch?

SQUIRE TIM
Agreed! We should be able to stun it into complacency and then skin it up for supper! I'll then make myself a lucky charm from its foot!

RITZ
(*Stands & screams*)
Now wait just a cotton pickin' minute!

(RITZ shakes in fear. He drops his "BUSH" and tries to pull out his SWORD but cannot because his FUZZY BUNNY MITTENS have no fingers. WILLIAM and TIM go back to the aisle and raise their weapons)

WILLIAM

Ready?

SQUIRE TIM

Ready!

(They rush down the aisle yelling. WILLIAM and TIM stop in front of RITZ yelling and stomping their feet and swinging their weapons. RITZ groans and clutching his chest, falls over dead. WILLIAM and TIM stop and stare)

SQUIRE TIM

(To WILLIAM)

Well, that was relatively easy.

WILLIAM

(To TIM)

Kind of anti-climatic if you ask me.

(They stare at RITZ)

WILLIAM (Cont'd)

It wasn't a very tough rabbit.

SQUIRE TIM

Well, *(Claps hands)* as long as he's not tough to chew!

(They stare at RITZ some more)

WILLIAM

You know, that's an awfully big rabbit.

SQUIRE TIM

(Thoughtful)

More like a kangaroo I think.

WILLIAM

Hmm-- I don't know.

(Tim holds up RITZ' SACK)

SQUIRE TIM

I was right see? Look! It has a pouch!

WILLIAM

It looks more like a wardrobe malfunction. Look, are you sure it's safe to eat?

SQUIRE TIM

Meats MEAT! Hurry up and skin the thing before it goes bad!

(DIBBLES, groaning noisily tries to grab his SWORD. WILLIAM and TIM turn)

SQUIRE TIM

Shh! You hear that!?!

WILLIAM

Maybe it's another rabbit!

SQUIRE TIM

(Scared)

Or, or something bigger?

WILLIAM

(Scared)

With teeth?

(WILLIAM and TIM look at each other and then at the BUSH which groans)

WILLIAM (Cont'd)

Maybe *(Steps back)* we should try the same thing?

SQUIRE TIM

Maybe *(Steps back)* it'll scare whatever it is away?

WILLIAM

I hope so! Ready?

SQUIRE TIM

(Takes a courageous breath)

Ready!

(They jump at DIBBLES screaming and waving their weapons)

(DIBBLES jumps up and screams, fumbling at his SWORD. WILLIAM and TIM drop their weapons and hold each other screaming. DIBBLES runs offstage screaming. WILLIAM and TIM eventually stop screaming and let each other go)

SQUIRE TIM

Wow! Did you see the size of that thing!

WILLIAM

It could have killed us both!

SQUIRE TIM

All I saw were flaming red eyes and a mouthful of teeth!

WILLIAM

Yeah! Was there a tail at all? I thought I saw a tail!

SQUIRE TIM

Could've been. Did you see wings?

WILLIAM

I think so! And that horrible stench!

SQUIRE TIM

Yeah! Yeew! What a smell!

WILLIAM

Well at least it didn't get our supper!

SQUIRE TIM

Yeah, but we should move off before we make camp. That thing might come back and I don't want to be here if it does!

(WILLIAM and TIM gather their belongings and go to RITZ)

STORYTELLER

So William and Tim, his new friend and squire, pick up the rabbit and move off to camp for the night and have some hot rabbit stew.

SQUIRE TIM

Should we tell anybody there's a monster in the woods?

WILLIAM

No, I doubt anyone would believe us anyway.

(They carry RITZ offstage. FLOOR SPOTS go out. TAVERN ROOM LIGHTS come back up)

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 16 Friends and Enemies

BRUCE

Oh what a sight that must have been! Rabbit for supper!

PALMER

(Stands miming WILLIAM)

And such a BIG rabbit too!

WILLIS

How can you laugh? Poor Ritz! That's not a proper way to go!

(PALMER sits. BRUCE places his hand on WILLIS' shoulder)

BRUCE

(Serious)

Life and death aren't supposed to BE funny Willis!

PALMER

It's how we deal with life and death that matters!
Take yourself for example!

WILLIS

What about me?

PALMER

What about you?

WILLIS

Yes!

PALMER

I don't know, only YOU can answer THAT question!

WILLIS

What question!

PALMER

Ah! See! Now the boy is starting to think!

BRUCE

Well done Willis!

PALMER

Your on your way Willis!

WILLIS

Way? To where?

STORYTELLER

(Stands)

To wherever life will take you of course!
It's what I've been saying all night my young friend!
Life is a story but only YOU can write it!

WILLIS

I'd rather write music to other people's stories. At least I can always make the music happy! Writing a story seems too much sad work. Telling them-- more so! *(Pauses)* Tell me something Master Storyteller, how can you hear so many sad stories and not go through life without a frown on your face? It seems there's much wrong in the world today, yet you can sit there and smile while you weave a tale with so much heartache. I'm finding it hard to believe there will be a happy ending to it at all!

STORYTELLER

(Pats WILLIS' shoulder and sits down)

I can see our young friend is growing up before our eyes! Young Master Willis, are WE not here now? Do WE not share our happiness with those in the story? In the telling and the hearing of them, do we not also share in their pain and grief? *(Leans towards WILLIS)* Young Master Willis, can we not see some of ourselves in them-- and therefore in each other?

WILLIS

I suppose so.

STORYTELLER

And if we can see a bit of ourselves in each other and the precious things we all share, how can we possibly be sad that we share so much with so many others?

WILLIS

It's like you said before then, about how I make you laugh and how that helps the world?

STORYTELLER

Very much so! I can see that you'll have a fine story to tell someday! Perhaps I'll live long enough to tell it!

WILLIS

I'll have a story?

BRUCE

(Puts his hand on WILLIS' shoulder and shakes him)

That's what the Master Storyteller has been saying all along!

PALMER

(Points to WILLIS)

You are your own best story!

BRUCE

And the fun part is that you write it yourself! You can make it a happy or sad story--

PALMER

Exciting or boring--

STORYTELLER

Long or short. It's all up to you!

WILLIS

And theme music?

STORYTELLER, BRUCE & PALMER

Of COURSE!

WILLIS

Well-- *(Ponders)* OK THEN! *(Pauses)* But what of Lily and William? What of Caducias and his last henchman Dibbles?

BRUCE

What of Willis? Will he let the story continue or keep asking questions?

WILLIS

You just made fun of me again didn't you?

PALMER

It seems that Willis is finally catching on! We're gonna need someone new to pick on!

WILLIS

And then I can help make fun of him too right?

BRUCE

NOW you're catching on Willis! A toast! A toast to Willis who's finally catching on!

(They raise their MUGS in a toast)

PALMER

We're gonna need a new Willis!

WILLIS

Yeah! We're gonna need a new Will-- WAIT! What about me? If you get a new Willis, where will I go? I really did want to be a fisherman!

(The MEN groan)

PALMER

(Puts his hand on the top of WILLIS' head and shakes it)

Ah! And you were SO close!

BRUCE

Missed it by-

(Holds thumb and forefinger barely apart in front of WILLIS' nose)

BRUCE (Cont'd)

--that much!

WILLIS

WHAT?

BRUCE

Oh never mind. Maybe tomorrow night! Master Storyteller! If you would please!

STORYTELLER

Very well! It seems that you won't make any more progress tonight! A shame though, he seemed to be catching on there for a moment! Well, it seemed that Caducias was short one sword wielding toady and he was angered beyond recall when Dibbles came back to him with the bad news! In a fit of rage, Caducias stormed! Or rather limped-- out of his house and headed for the tavern intending to meet this William that threatened him so. And because Caducias was wounded and limped-- he wasn't the first to arrive at the tavern the next evening.

(The STORYTELLER looks towards the front door, in come LILY's friends, BETHANY, WILLOW and SARAH. They leave the door open. SARAH peeks out the door and calls)

SARAH

(Frustrated)

LILY! Come in already! It's no use waiting anymore! *(Turns to BETHANY and WILLOW)* I'm tired of waiting! It's been hours!

BETHANY

It hasn't been that long. You shouldn't complain! After all, Lily's mother did make you supper!

WILLOW

Well when Lily asked us to sleep over, I expected a party! Instead all she talks about is William! William this and William that! I sure didn't expect to stay here hearing all about William!

SARAH

And she dragged me out of bed this morning just as the sun was coming up! I was just falling asleep! And for what? *(Yells out the door)* For Winkie! That's what!

(Turns and looks at BETHANY and WILLOW)

SARAH (Cont'd)

I'm so sick and tired of hearing about Winkie! She's been talking of nothing else but Winkie, Winkie, WINKIE!

(LILY appears in the doorway behind SARAH)

SARAH (Cont'd)

Winkie this and Winkie that! Always yappin' about WINKIE!

LILY

(Leans near SARAH's ear)

It's William not Winkie!

(SARAH screams and leaps forward into BETHANY's arms. LILY enters and turns to the door)

LILY (Cont'd)

Its ok, you can come in! And bring your friend in too!

*(WILLIAM and TIM enter and look around.
TIM has RITZ's BOOT tied on his left side)*

SQUIRE TIM

(Waving to all)

Hello! Hi! How are you today!

*(TIM walks around shaking hands and
introducing himself to everyone)*

SQUIRE TIM (Cont'd)

Hi my name is Tim! I'm William's Squire! Hi! Hello there!
(Stops, seeing BETHANY) Uh, Below! I uh, I mean, uh, Brillo!
Um, I mean Bilbo! *(Embarrassed)* Oh crud!

BETHANY

(Smiling, holds out her hand)

Hello.

*(TIM gulps once and takes her hand and
bowing, gently kisses it)*

SARAH

(Throws up her hands)

Oh Great! Here we go again!

*(SARAH stomps over and sits on the stairs
next to the STORYTELLER)*

SARAH (Cont'd)

(To STORYTELLER, points at BETHANY)

Can you believe that!

BETHANY

(Puts arm around TIM)

Do you like flowers?

SQUIRE TIM

Well-- as long as he *(Points at WILLIAM)* doesn't cook them!

BETHANY

(Laughs)

What?

SQUIRE TIM

I'll tell you about it someday.

BETHANY
(*Slyly*)

How about now?

(*BETHANY takes TIM to the stairs where she pulls SARAH off. BETHANY and TIM sit and talk quietly. SARAH moves next to WILLOW*)

SARAH
Well! I never!

WILLOW
You will someday! We both will! We seem to be dropping like flies lately!

LILY
(*To WILLIAM*)
Stay here, I'll be right back!

WILLIAM
Wait! I just got here! You can't leave now!

LILY
Silly! I'm just going to get my parents!

(*She exits to the kitchen. BRUCE points to WILLIAM's 'armor'*)

BRUCE
Nice armor!

WILLIAM
What? (*Looks down*) Oh these. No, not armor, (*Removes the POTS, leaving the SPATULA in his BELT*) just pans and pots for cooking. (*Puts them on the bar*) I had no other way to carry them.

BRUCE
So, you're this William we've heard so much about!

PALMER
And a Knight of the King as well!

WILLIAM
Well, I-- You see it's more of an honorary position. There's a lot of training I'd have to do first and the King decided to--

(LILY, TAVERNKEEPER and WIFE enter)

TAVERNKEEPER
(Hand outstretched)

My boy! What a wonderful--

WIFE
(Slaps TAVERNKEEPER)

He's not a boy you dolt! He's a Knight of the King! *(To WILLIAM)* Please ignore him sir! He's from simple stock that were bred without proper manners!

TAVERNKEEPER
(To WIFE)

Manners good enough for YOU all these years! Why if it weren't for ME, you'd be married to a first COUSIN somewhere!

WIFE
Hold your tongue! We've got proper company for a change! For once in your life act like it matters to you!

PALMER
(To BRUCE)

I think we've been insulted!

BRUCE
(To PALMER)

And you're surprised?

WIFE
(To FISHERMEN)

SHUT UP!

WILLIAM
Please! Stop! It's not that important!

TAVERNKEEPER
Not IMPORTANT? My boy uh, Sir Knight! Of course your mportant! Your a Knight of the King! So you're an important person! And your important to Lily, are you not?

LILY
(Enters WILLIAMS arms)

Yes, he is important to me.

TAVERNKEEPER
And Lily's important to you, is she not?

WILLIAM

(*To LILY*)

Indeed she is sir.

TAVERNKEEPER

(*Shrugs*)

Then what's the problem?

CADUCIAS

(*Enters, SWORD in hand*)

The problem is he's still alive!

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 17 Confrontation Part 2

(Everyone turns. CADUCIAS screams and swipes at WILLIAM's head. WILLIAM pushes LILY away and just manages to duck the SWORD and pick up a CHAIR. The FISHERMEN quickly stand knocking over their CHAIRS, the TAVERNKEEPER grabs his WIFE and pulls her behind the bar. TIM pushes BETHANY behind him and tries to get past the FISHERMEN to get to WILLIAM. WILLOW and SARAH run into the kitchen)

WILLIAM

Are you mad Blaeshue! What are you doing?

CADUCIAS

You've all played me for a fool, but NO MORE!

(TIM gets past the FISHERMEN and moves toward CADUCIAS who swings his SWORD at him forcing him to stop)

CADUCIAS

Back away FOOL! I'll tend to you soon enough!

WILLIAM

Look Blaeshue! I don't know why your doing this but there are laws here and--

CADUCIAS

I AM THE LAW!

(CADUCIAS stabs at WILLIAM who blocks the SWORD thrust with the CHAIR legs. CADUCIAS twists his SWORD, the CHAIR flies from WILLIAM's grasp)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Now to finish this! And YOU!

TIM

NO!

(TIM leaps at CADUCIAS who spins around catching TIM in the left side with his SWORD. CADUCIAS' weakened leg buckles and he goes to his knees)

CADUCIAS

AHH! My leg!

(TIM looks down at the SWORD in him. He looks over at WILLIAM)

TIM

(Unsure)

William?

(Grunting, CADUCIAS jerks the SWORD free. TIM gasps and staggers back and then slowly reaches out to WILLIAM)

TIM (Cont'd)

(Faintly)

Will-- *(Falls and is still)*

WILLIAM

(To CADUCIAS)

You BASTARD!

CADUCIAS

(Slides back to the bar on his knees and heaves himself painfully to his feet. He points his SWORD at WILLIAM)

Noble born, DOG! No bastard am I! And it was I that should have had Lily, I! Not some flea ridden nobody from nowhere!

(WILLIAM backs up against the window. CADUCIAS clutches at the bar to steady himself and moves a step closer to WILLIAM. The FISHERMEN slowly reach for TIM to pull him away from CADUCIAS. CADUCIAS notices them and swings his SWORD back and forth between them and WILLIAM)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

Leave him be swine! Let him bleed out like you've all bled me these past weeks!

WILLIAM

It's me you want Blaeshue! Not them!

CADUCIAS

Ah! But I want you all! All to die that is!

(CADUCIAS lunges at WILLIAM who throws himself backwards [SOUND EFFECT ALERT] crashing through the window. WILLIAM lands in the garden and scrambles to his feet as CADUCIAS steps through the window. WILLIAM ducks as CADUCIAS' SWORD swipes above his head. The STORYTELLER comes through the garden door and stands off to the side watching. WILLIAM rolls off the garden wall onto the floor as CADUCIAS' SWORD comes down where he was a moment before. WILLIAM runs up the aisle and disappears. CADUCIAS screams and jumps down to the floor which rips a scream of pain from him as his leg buckles. WILLOW & SARAH enter the room)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

You can RUN! But you can't HIDE! (*Painfully goes up the aisle*)
I'll KILL you! I'll kill you all for making a fool of me!

STORYTELLER

And screaming his rage to the heavens, Caducias disappears into the forest after William.

(CADUCIAS exits)

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 18 An Ending

(The STORYTELLER enters the tavern. TIM lies on the tavern floor unmoving, his head in BETHANY's lap. Her head is bowed and she softly weeps. WILLIS is sitting on the stairs head bowed. BRUCE & PALMER are kneeling next to TIM & BETHANY. Standing behind the bar, the TAVERNKEEPER holds his WIFE, her face buried in his shoulder. LILY sits on the floor weeping. SARAH and WILLOW kneel beside her. TIM coughs)

BETHANY

He's alive! Oh he's alive!

(Everyone moves closer)

BRUCE

Back away! Back away! For heaven's sake, give him room to breathe!

TIM

OW! Ah, what happened? OW!

BETHANY

You're ALIVE! *(Helps TIM sit up)* Oh how can you be alive?

TIM

So sorry to disappoint you! OW! *(Raises RITZ's ROOT)* It looks like my lucky rabbits foot saved me! I must have fainted from the shock! It sure looked like that sword was in me from where I was standing!

(BETHANY places her hand on TIM's side where the sword hit him)

TIM (Cont'd)

OW! That hurts!

BRUCE

(Looking at TIM's side)

There's no wound that I can see, but you'll have a nice bruise there for a few days! *(Laughs)* It looks like your lucky rabbit's foot DID save your life!

(BRUCE helps TIM to his feet. BETHANY helps him to the CHAIR BRUCE had vacated. TIM sits and looks around)

TIM

Where's William? What happened to that madman? Who was he?

PALMER

Blaeshue is his name, Caducias Blaeshue. He's the provincial Baron's son. And you're right, he IS a madman!

LILY

(To TIM)

Squire Tim, I'm so sorry! It's all my fault!

BRUCE

Nonsense! It was none of your doing! 'twas Blaeshue's madness that brought this upon us all!

(The TAVERNKEEPER and his WIFE come over to LILY and the WIFE grabs her arms and pulls her up)

WIFE

LILY! I'll have none of that silly talk from you! It was not your fault! That black hearted snake is evil and he only had evil thoughts! He was the one who started--

(She waves her hand indicating the room and its occupants)

WIFE (Cont'd)

all this, not YOU! *(Quietly)* He caused all this sorrow and hurt my love, not you.

(LILY places her head upon the WIFE's shoulder and cries. TIM stands clutching his side)

TIM

So where is William! I have to help him! *(Bends in pain)* Agh!

TAVERNKEEPER

It doesn't look like you'd be able to help!
Even if you could find him, what could you do?

DIBBLES

(Bursts in still dressed as a rabbit)

I'm here my lord! Fear not! I'll--

(Stops and looks around. Everyone looks at him with intense anger)

DIBBLES (Cont'd)

Oh, uh, I'm a little late aren't I? So sorry, I'll just--

(Everyone steps towards him reaching out. He smiles and steps back)

DIBBLES (Cont'd)

I'm intruding aren't I? Well I can see this isn't a very good time! I'll just come back later!

TIM

You! I know you! You're the monster in the forest that attacked us!

DIBBLES

(Backs away)

No no! Kind sir! You must have me confused with--

BRUCE

Get him!

(Everyone jumps on DIBBLES and pin him to the floor. SARAH sits on his back)

SARAH

(Slaps him on the head)

Now try something you beast!

DIBBLES

OW! Please! It wasn't my idea! I was just following orders! It was all Lord Blaeshue's idea! I meant no harm!

LILY

No harm? NO HARM! That's all you've done was HARM!

WILLIS

Maybe we should tie him up?

WIFE

Yes! Hang him high from the rafters by the NECK!

DIBBLES

No! NO! Please NO! I meant no harm! Please!

BRUCE

As much enjoyment as I'd get from such a deed, we're not murderers. We'll tie him up for safekeeping--

DIBBLES

Oh, thank you! THANK YOU!

BRUCE

So he can be hanged by a proper court!

(Everyone agrees, DIBBLES groans)

BRUCE

Tavernkeeper! Do you have rope?

STORYTELLER

I might have some stout rope in my sack.

(BETHANY and WILLOW pull out TWO PIECES of ROPE and tie DIBBLES to the bar post. Through the front door, WILLIAM runs into the room screaming. He leaps through the window and then circles around and through the back door and runs up the stairs into LILY's room and dives under the bed)

TAVERNKEEPER

What was that?

LILY

Was that--

EVERYONE [Except DIBBLES]

WILLIAM!

(They rush to the stairs jostling each other except SARAH who goes to the open door and looks out. Seeing nothing, she turns back)

SARAH

(To the others)

What's he running from?

(CADUCIAS appears in the doorway, SWORD in hand. SARAH screams as CADUCIAS grabs her from behind)

CADUCIAS

(Enters)

WHERE IS HE! Where is that worm! I saw him run in here!

BRUCE

Let her go Blaeshue!

(CADUCIAS, holding SARAH, moves to and looks into the kitchen then turns back)

CADUCIAS

Where's that foul whelp! Bring him here or-- *(He shakes SARAH who cries out)* else!

TAVERNKEEPER

Lily, go get William and bring him here.

LILY

But FATHER! He'll kill William!

TAVERNKEEPER

It's one or the other so you better choose quickly!

(Sobbing, LILY rushes upstairs)

DIBBLES

(Struggling)

Thank goodness you're here my lord! I tried to stop them--

CADUCIAS

Silent dog! You had your chance to serve me and you failed! You deserve no better than your worthless brother!

(DIBBLES sobs. WILLIAM & LILY go downstairs. WILLIAM stands before CADUCIAS)

WILLIAM

I'm here Blaeshue! Now let her go!

CADUCIAS

(Points SWORD at WILLIAM)

Kneel dog!

(WILLIAM remains standing. CADUCIAS shakes SARAH and she cries out)

CADUCIAS (Cont'd)

DOWN! Down on your knees! (*Impatiently*) I won't ask again.

(WILLIAM bows his head and kneels)

LILY

(Kneels beside WILLIAM)

WILLIAM, NO!

CADUCIAS

"William, no!" How PATHETIC! Your precious William realizes who his better is and can do the only thing left. He can die!

(LILY slowly pulls WILLIAM's hand behind him and then the SPATULA from his BELT)

LILY

My poor William! (*Puts the SPATULA in his hand*) I love you William. (*Stands and backs away*)

WILLIAM

I love you too Lily. Perhaps someday we'll pick flowers once again. (*Smiles*)

(Raising his SWORD, CADUCIAS pushes SARAH towards LILY. WILLIAM quickly lunges forward and yelling, sticks the SPATULA into CADUCIAS right side. CADUCIAS grunts then looks down at the SPATULA. He lowers his SWORD and begins to laugh. WILLIAM, still on his knees, moves back)

CADUCIAS

Is that the best you can do boy? It's but a scratch!

(CADUCIAS looks from WILLIAM to the SPATULA and laughs again. LILY looks around and spies the KETCHUP BOTTLE on the TABLE and grabs it)

LILY

William! Here!

(LILY tosses the BOTTLE to WILLIAM and he squirts the spatula wound. CADUCIAS suddenly stops laughing and drops his SWORD. He chokes and gasps for breath. He looks at the BLOODY SPATULA in confusion)

CADUCIAS

W, w, what?

(CADUCIAS slowly and painfully pulls out the SPATULA. He looks at it astounded, then drops it. He probes the wound and raises his bloody hand up looking at it in amazement and then, searching for LILY, spies her and steps once towards her. He reaches out with his blood covered hand)

CADUCIAS

L, Li, Lily? *(Falls over dead)*

LILY

(Rushes to WILLIAM)

William! You won! You won!

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 19 End of Storyteller's Story

(WILLIAM stands and hugs LILY. The others rejoice. They finally stop and stare at CADUCIAS. WILLIAM picks up the bloody SPATULA and looks at it and turns to LILY)

WILLIAM

That was quick thinking!

LILY

(Shrugs)

It was nothing. I'm just glad you had it! I wasn't really sure it would work!

BRUCE

And glad we all are it did!

TAVERNKEEPER

Drinks are on the house!

WIFE

(Smacks the TAVERNKEEPER)

Well! What about HIM? *(Points to CADUCIAS)* Do you plan on sitting him by the nice cozy fire and serving him dinner and some wine from a decanter?

(Everyone stares at CADUCIAS)

WILLIS

Well, maybe we can, oh, I don't know-- Put him out on the porch and worry about it tomorrow?

EVERYONE

(Shrugs)

Ok!

(No one moves)

WIFE

Well who's going to put him outside?

(Everyone looks at each other then as one, look at DIBBLES)

PALMER
(*Shrugs, looks at BRUCE*)

Works for me.

BRUCE
Yeah, sounds good to me too!

(*PALMER unties DIBBLES and shoves him towards CADUCIAS*)

WILLIAM
Take your friend and get out!

TAVERNKEEPER
And don't come back! EVER!

(*DIBBLES grabs CADUCIAS' and exits*)

TAVERNKEEPER
(*Frowns*)
Well, I've just had a thought.

WIFE
What's the matter?

TAVERNKEEPER
With both the Baron and now his son gone, who will we get to enforce the law?

BRUCE
Indeed! It may take weeks for another Baron to be appointed to our province!

WILLIAM
(*Pulls LILY to the side*)
Lily! Remember that letter I wrote you?

LILY
Yes, the one you didn't get to finish?

WILLIAM
And where I said the King made me a Knight?

LILY
Yes, what of it?

WILLIAM

And when I wrote I didn't think it's what I really wanted?

LILY

(*Flustered*)

Yes William! What are you trying to say?

WILLIAM

I'm trying to say that all I wanted was to come back to YOU!
I couldn't stand to be a Knight if it meant being away from
you!

LILY

But the King! He made you a Knight and you'll have to go where
he bids! (*Disappointing realization dawns*) Oh, I see--

WILLIAM

Do you? Because IF I were a Knight, then I would hardly ever
see you because of all the traveling I would do on the Kings
business!

LILY

(*Puts her head on his shoulder*)

So, you'll be leaving soon? Leaving me again?

WIFE

(*Pats LILY's shoulder*)

He said "IF" he were a Knight my dear.

LILY

IF he were a knight?

SARAH

Good grief! How close is she to him and she still can't hear?
That's what LOVE does to you! (*Spins finger around temple*)
Makes you all crazy in the head!

WILLOW

(*To SARAH*)

Hush Sarah! This is getting interesting!

SARAH

(*Upset*)

Not you too!

LILY

IF? You mean-- you mean you're NOT a Knight?

WILLIAM

(Laughing)

No not really! At least not anymore!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Crushed)

I knew it was too good to be true!

WILLIAM

(To LILY)

I'm sorry I never got to finish that letter--

LILY

The King! You didn't finish the letter because you were summoned by the King!

WILLIAM

Yes, he knew of your troubles and was planning on coming here to deal with Blaeshue himself after the war but someone-- *(Points at TIM)* had told the King where I was from, so--

LILY

So?

WILLIAM

Well, the news of your parent's goodwill in the face of Caducias' behavior was also known to the King--

STORYTELLER

See! See! I told you so! Didn't I? Yes I did!

WILLIAM

Well the King made plans to do something about it and, well, I told him about you and, well--

(Frustrated, WILLIAM pulls a LETTER from his SHIRT. He looks at it, then hands it to LILY. She begins to read then she quickly turns to the others)

LILY

It's from the King!

(She finishes reading then jumps into WILLIAM's arms dropping the LETTER)

LILY (Cont'd)

Oh William! I'm so happy!

(The WIFE picks up the LETTER and reads it, a look of wonder on her face. She passes it to the others who also read and when they are done, as one, they bow before WILLIAM & LILY)

EVERYONE [except LILY]

My Lord Baron!

WILLIAM

Oh don't do that!

(They remain bowed)

WILLIAM (Cont'd)

(Defeatedly)

Oh alright! *(Embarrassed)* You can bow.

(Everyone looks up)

WILLIAM (Cont'd)

(Smiling)

But only outside! Not in here! *(Laughs)* Never in here!

(Everyone laughs and circles WILLIAM and LILY)

WILLIAM (Cont'd)

(To LILY)

Lily! If its not too late to ask. Would you like to marry a Baron and live in a castle on the hill? *(Turns to the WIFE and TAVERNKEEPER)* You're both welcome to live there too!

(The TAVERNKEEPER shrugs and looks to his WIFE who shakes her head no)

TAVERNKEEPER

No thank you my lord--

WILLIAM

It's William, not "my lord". Just William.

TAVERNKEEPER

No thank you William.

WIFE

Such a life would be too exciting we think. We're just simple folk who like our peace and quiet.

(Smiling, WILLIAM looks at LILY)

LILY

(Frowns, steps away)

I don't know William-- That's an awful lot of responsibility being up there on that hill.

(Everyone gasps)

WILLIAM

But, but--

LILY

(Turns smiling)

Will there be a flower garden? *(Moves into WILLIAM's arms)*
One where we can meet every night and pick flowers?

(WILLIAM kisses her)

(Cue FOUND IN YOU MUSIC)

WILLIAM

(Singing)

Lady love me true, be mine don't make me blue, Come with me,
don't go away, Live forever more,

MEN

(Singing)

Within my arms, Let me love you with all of your charms,

WILLIAM

(Singing)

How I want you so, and darlin' I'll let you know, That I'll
love you more, with each passing day, What I'll do for you,

MEN

(Singing)

Forever he'll be true, Girl, he'll never let you down,

WILLIAM & MEN

(Singing)

'cause I've found in you, someone I can love, An angel sent to
me, from heaven up above, And I've prayed for oh so long,

WILLIAM & MEN (Cont'd)

To be with you, I can't go wrong,

WILLIAM

(Singing)

And lady, to only you, Will I be true,

LILY

(Singing)

Late at night, when we're all alone, In front of the
fireplace, with the flames burning down low, as I hold you
near,

GIRLS

(Singing)

We'll both make it clear, That we'll never ever let each other
go,

LILY

(Singing)

Lookin' in your eyes, it comes as no surprise, The way I love
you, it's the only thing I can do, It's the way I'll always
feel,

GIRLS

(Singing)

To us our love is real, It grows stronger, even when we're
both apart,

All GIRLS

(Singing)

'cause I've found in you, someone I can love, An angel sent to
me, from heaven up above, And I've prayed for oh so long,
To be with you, I can't go wrong,

LILY

(Singing)

And baby, to only you, Will I be true,

EVERYONE

(Singing)

'cause I've found in you, someone I can love, An angel sent to
me, from heaven up above, And I've prayed for oh so long,
To be with you, I can't go wrong,

(LILY and WILLIAM slowly begin to walk out the garden door and across the garden area - leaving - they'll stop in the middle for their final solo lines and then rush offstage. WILLOW and SARAH will also leave through the front door along with TIM holding hands with BETHANY, at the final song group line)

EVERYONE (Cont'd)

(Singing)

And baby, to only you, and baby, to only you,

(LILY and WILLIAM stop in the center of the garden looking in each others eyes as they sing the last line)

LILY & WILLIAM

(Singing)

And baby to only you, will I be true,

(End MUSIC)

(LILY and WILLIAM rush offstage. The TAVERNKEEPER and WIFE exit to the kitchen. The Storyteller sits. The FISHERMEN cheer and pat the STORYTELLER on the back)

STORYTELLER

ENOUGH! I'm not as young as I used to be you know! A body can only take so much abuse and mine has had its fair share!

(The FISHERMEN stop and sit down)

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

(Pouting)

Well, maybe a little more clapping would be ok--

(The FISHERMEN clap. The STORYTELLER bows and groans as he stands)

STORYTELLER (Cont'd)

(Grabs his STAFF)

Oh my old bones! *(Walks to the door)*

BRUCE

You're not leaving now are you?

PALMER

You can't leave yet! Why the sun won't be up for another hour!

STORYTELLER

Ah, but I must be well on my way! There are others who need a happy tale and I can't tell them if I'm here! (*Picks up SACK*)

BRUCE

Well, a good and safe road to you then!

STORYTELLER

(*To WILLIS*)

And you my young friend? Would you care to follow along and write music to my tales?

WILLIS

No, I think I'll stay here and start writing my own story. Besides (*Looks at his friends*) I think it shall be a happy one, and with a wonderful ending too!

TAVERNKEEPER

(*Enters*)

Oh! Leaving so soon Master Storyteller? What about supper?

STORYTELLER

Not to worry, maybe I'll catch me a rabbit on the road!

(*Imitates WILLIAM stomping. The FISHERMEN groan and the TAVERNKEEPER chuckles*)

TAVERNKEEPER

Well then, I'll let the Wife know that she can bank the fires for the night.

STORYTELLER

Tell your Wife I am truly sorry I never ate some of her fine cooking but I shall surely tell everyone I meet of the Tavern and its fine food and warm company!

(*Waving, the STORYTELLER leaves. The TAVERNKEEPER stretches and yawns*)

PALMER

I guess that's our cue boys!

TAVERNKEEPER

Aye it is! Now be off with you!

(The FISHERMEN get up and the TAVERNKEEPER shoo's them out the door. The TAVERNKEEPER gives WILLIS, the last one out, a playful kick in the pants. He stands a moment in the doorway watching his friends)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

(To FISHERMEN)

Same time tomorrow night!

FISHERMEN (O.S.)

YEAH!

(The TAVERNKEEPER closes the door)

(END OF SCENE)

Act 2

Scene 20 The End of Our Story

WIFE

(Enters from kitchen and looks around. She holds a SPATULA in her hand and a DISHRAG in the other)

Where did everyone go? Where's the STORYTELLER!

TAVERNKEEPER

He had to leave. You know him, can't stay in one place for very long!

WIFE

Ah yes, taxes! Where does he live anyway?

TAVERNKEEPER

(Shrugs)

No one knows.

WIFE

Wait! What about his supper! How is he--

TAVERNKEEPER

(Smiling)

Don't worry! He said he'd spread the word around!

WIFE

(Relieved)

Oh Good! I'll go and see to the kitchen then. You'll finish cleaning up in here?

(He nods and she exits to kitchen)

TAVERNKEEPER

(Finishes cleaning. He drops the WASHCLOTH on the bar, sighs and looks at the room)

A good night! A good night indeed! Well-- time to lock up!

(He walks to the garden door and reaching for the knob, pauses. He opens the door and steps outside looking up at the stars. His WIFE enters SPATULA and DISHRAG in hand. She sees the TAVERNKEEPER and places the SPATULA and DISHRAG on the TABLE)

(The WIFE goes out and stands next to him. They put their arms around each other. The TAVERN LIGHTS DIM and a SOFT SPOTLIGHT shines on the TAVERNKEEPER and his WIFE)

WIFE

It's been a long day.

TAVERNKEEPER

But a good one!

WIFE

Will there be more?

TAVERNKEEPER

We can only hope!

(Silently they stare at the stars)

TAVERNKEEPER (Cont'd)

Its late, we should be off to bed. We've a busy day tomorrow.

WIFE

Just a little longer.

TAVERNKEEPER

(Sighs contentedly)

I do so love the sound of the sea, the fresh salty air, the peace and quiet.

(The WIFE pulls a RUSTY CHAIN from her BLOUSE. On the end is a TARNISHED MEDALLION)

TAVERNKEEPER

You still have that old thing? I forgot all about it! I thought you lost it years ago!

WIFE

I thought so too but a funny thing happened while I was just cleaning up the kitchen.

TAVERNKEEPER

Oh? And what was that?

WIFE

Well, I was moving some old pots and pans around that were hanging in the kitchen rafters and this fell out from one!

TAVERNKEEPER

(Laughing)

I guess we need to go through the place and throw out a lot of old things we've collected over the years!

WIFE

(Laughs)

Starting with your friends I hope!

TAVERNKEEPER

Oh, I think you'd be hard pressed to keep THEM away!

(His WIFE looks at the MEDALLION and slowly twirls it in her hand)

WIFE

Well, maybe we'll keep them around for at least another night.

TAVERNKEEPER

(Chuckles then taps the MEDALLION)

What about this old thing?

WIFE

(Ponders)

Yes-- I think I'll keep this too. *(Frowns)* Are you ever sorry you left? *(Pauses)* Well, what I mean is--

TAVERNKEEPER

No, not at all! It was a LOT of responsibility! And I knew how much you really missed this place! You're happier here. And if you're happy, then I'm happy!

(They hug and look at the sky and turning, go back inside and up the stairs. ALL LIGHTS goes out)

(END OF PLAY)

CAST of CHARACTERS page 1 of 3

The TAVERNKEEPER -

A jovial sort of fellow who lets the world slide off his shoulders. He knows his wife can be a pain but knows she really has a good heart and she can cook...

The Tavernkeeper's WIFE -

The resident screeching harpy. She knows she's a pain and doesn't let anyone forget it and tries hard, with great success, to not let anybody know she has a good heart - except for Lily's friends...

The STORYTELLER -

No real pronounceable name to worry about. Spent too many years on the road, not quite sane but enjoys not having to pay taxes because he always leaves town before they can find out what his mailing address is.

BRUCE -

Fisherman in tavern. Works on a fishing boat, smells like a fish, drinks like a fish, tired of eating fish. Likes the tavern because he can sit next to the fireplace so he's not cold like a fish and where he can forget about having to go home just yet to his cold fishy wife who's tired of her husband always spending time at the tavern...

PALMER -

Fisherman in tavern. Like Bruce above, but knows what a bath is...

WILLIS -

Fisherman in tavern. The newest member of the ships crew, not yet married, can stay out all night if he wants... Thinks everything should have it's own "theme" music. Not yet inducted into all the nuances of being a fisherman, ie: all the old jokes are new to him and the others spare no expense taking advantage of that fact. He's also going to learn how to play that deadly game all seasoned fishermen call "Pickle"... go ahead and laugh, just be glad it's not you!

LILY (age 16) -

Daughter of the Tavernkeeper's in the Storyteller's story. She's a bit silly, but not as scatterbrained as she appears. Somewhat self centered at first, but she'll learn soon enough. She's just a typical teenager but without the benefits (curse?) of electronic technology...

CAST of CHARACTERS page 2 of 3

WINKIE (William) -

The poor boy-hero in the Storyteller's story. Lives in the forest. Looks like he was raised by squirrels. He wants to be a cook someday just to know what hot food tastes like and he fell in love with Lily at first sight probably because she's not covered in hair... at least she doesn't have fleas... he's not sure about her friends though...

Lord CADUCIAS BLAESHUE - (ka-due-shush, blay-shoe)

The Baron's son. The bad guy that lust's after Lily in the Storyteller's story. Typical spoiled rich brat who can afford to ignore the law and basic manners. Hopefully there will be enough air to go around when he kicks it so everybody can cheer really loud....

DIBBLES -

Caducias' evil temp agency henchman and ambushing bunny rabbit. Caducias' regular henchmen were out sick so the Particularly Evil Temp Agency (P.E.T.A.) sent him and Ritz for the week. Extremely incompetent, can't get a real job and doesn't work well with others, but his body is warm and he can stand still for long periods of time....

RITZ -

Caducias' other evil temp agency henchman and Dibble's twin brother....

BETHANY (age 15) - (doubles as hungry customer #2)

Friend of Lily's. Probably more mature than Lily and the others, probably the most sane of everybody....

WILLOW (age 14) -

Friend of Lily's. Used to be like Sarah, now catching up to Bethany....

SARAH (age 13) -

Friend of Lily's. She wants to be like Lily but with the help of Bethany... well, we can hope can't we? Truly innocent at heart, she's sweet & charming, she's also a royal pain in the butt. She can get away with murder and she knows it....

Oh, you've met her already...?

SQUIRE TIM - (doubles as hungry customer #1)

Friend of Winkie. On the "not insane" scale, probably # 3 behind Bethany & the Tavernkeeper. He wants to be a warrior someday and worships the bravery of Winkie. He's actually the bravest of all, he just doesn't realize it. He'll probably marry Bethany in the sequel...

CAST of CHARACTERS page 3 of 3

YOUNG WINKIE [WILLIAM] -

Words cannot express how much of an idiot he is... oh wait, his Fairy Godmother said "nut job", yeah, that works....

PHOEBE -

Young Winkie's sister. An older version of Winkie. She doesn't even rate a Fairy Godmother...enough said...

THE FAIRY GODMOTHER [Tresamai] -

Winkie's Fairy Godmother.

Description: 3rd rate, engine needs work, needs tranny, needs paint, had new bling installed but wired wrong, rims are still good, has major rust, failed inspection, speakers blown, can sell for parts or will trade for food..... call after 6pm...

Fairy Godmother Henchman # 1 -

Herald & left armpit support.

Fairy Godmother Henchman # 2 -

Herald & right armpit support.

Robert the husband, a Hungry Customer -

It was the wrong night to go out, it was the wrong place to go in. He spent way too much time arguing with his wife about where to eat so all the good places closed at a decent hour and like moths to a flame, they went towards the only light they could see...

Rosemary the wife, a Hungry Customer #2 -

All she wanted was to go to the well lit expensive restaurant just up the street but no, her husband wanted to save money. It doesn't matter that it was their first year anniversary...

Mrs. Elizabeth Flukes the mother-in-law -

Don't bother to argue, you can't win with this one.

The Tavern & The Storyteller Post Production Script Notes

Misc Notes:

Orchestra: While most theatre troupes/clubs will have an orchestra pit of some type, all the songs (with the exception of the Fairy Godmother Rap) can be performed by a single acoustic guitar. The FGRap is a pre-recorded instrumental song meant to be played through a P.A. system or large boom box. See Item #17 below.

Set Design: If a multi-level set isn't feasible, a possible alternative is to place the 'bedroom' sequences outside in the garden. See website for set design pictures. For the Pembroke Academy debut performance, the director decided to not use the base 'front window wall' per my design or to put a 'garden door' near the corner as he didn't want to block the view to the stairway.

A simple horizontal piece of wood on a hinge with a knob would have sufficed and at the very least would have reminded the actors to 'use' the doorway instead of just walking through the area as if there was nothing there. This is an important comedic piece as Caducias uses his body to block the door from opening in one of the scenes and helps 'define' the Tavern's 'rear windowed' wall. A picture of the model in the program also helps the audience 'visualize' the set.

Tavern Set Wall Lights: Were a simple design and nothing more than a large circle of wood for the top and a translucent fiberglass panel wraparound screwed into the wood circle. The light fixture is screwed to the underside of the wood and the wire comes out the top. A piece of strapping was screwed vertically to the back for mounting to the wall and the 'light' was screwed into the wall from the backside.

The Storyteller: This character can be well used and moved offset/offstage and wander through the audience. He can easily blur the 'borders' between the actors and the audience and always knows what will happen. For instance, putting on a pair of sunglasses prior to the Golden Spatula blinding everyone. He 'knows' the audience is watching the world of the Tavern just as someone is watching & telling our/his story somewhere.

General Notes: Act #/Page #

1 - 1/1 - The basic TAVERN design is the main Tavern room and a separate bedroom area. Adjust script directions for bedroom exits as needed if set isn't multi-level.

2 - 1/1 - For it's debut performance, the house lights were down, the music started and the Tavernkeeper entered walking down the auditorium aisle singing.

3 - 1/1 - Basket of FISH. I printed out enlarged fish graphics mirroring each side of the FISH onto 8.5" x 11" iron-on paper and ironed them onto a white bedsheet, cut them out and sewed them together with stuffing. What appeared to be large on paper actually made small thin fish.

4 - 1/3 - For the 'garden' we just stuck plastic flowers into foam material and had some flower vases/pots/etc. The flowers also help 'define' the 'windowed wall' border. (See 'Set Design' above)

5 - 1/8 - The Wifes 'theme music'. Jaws, Godzilla, any kind of dark & menacing riff will work. Adjust/delete the Wife's dialog of reprimand as needed if your concerned about copyright infringement.

6 - 1/9 - A good spot for the Fishermen to Improv.

7 - 1/11 - The pans can be the same as the ones William wears later on in Scene 9, Off to War.

8 - 1/13 - Real water (or some form of drink), real spitting, real cleaning up by the Tavernkeeper.

9 - 1/14 - I picture the Storyteller similar to Gandalf. Old but still spritely with abilities far beyond those of mortal men.

10 -1/14 - A great improv moment for the Storyteller to play investigative doctor as he inspects Willis.

11 - 1/18 - A quick note on Lily and the Wife - it might be good to have both characters have the same hair color. This is the first moment where subliminal comparisons are made. Similar costumes wouldn't be recommended as that would give it away too soon.

12 - 1/41 - William's Large Dead Fish. For this and the 2 wall mounted stuffed fish, we used what appeared to be fish shaped & patterned pillow cases from a local 'House of Cloth' store which we stuffed.

13 - 1/44 - The Golden Spatula. My original intent was to modify a plastic spatula with led lights in the holes (as opposed to a spatula with long openings) and a battery pack in the handle. Then I came to my senses and just glued a lot of mirrored clear jems on the front face and painted the rest gold. The spatula fit nicely into the top of a pcv pole we had lying around which the actress playing the FG decorated.

14 - 1/45 - My intent was to have all the house lights dim and a spot light shine on the G.S. for effect which would hopefully bounce off the spatula's mirrors.

15 - 1/45 - Script Sound Effect Alerts. Just suggestions.

16 - 1/45 - Improv being blinded.

17 - 1/44 - The Fairy Godmother Rap. See Orchestra Notes above.

My original intent was to have the orchestra perform this piece but because of it's structure and 'lack' of music, it was hard to practice this during rehearsals. The final solution was to pre-record it without a vocal track and it worked so well for rehearsals that I decided to just use it in the production.

The written bits of choreography in the script are just a base suggestion. I've tried to outline certain sections where I 'see' how actions crossover with the lyrics and involvement between the characters in the song to hopefully lend ideas to the piece.

18 - 1/55 - A toy Pinwheel flower.

19 - 1/64 - Another opportunity for improv. Get the Fishermen to get the audience to boo at Caducias.

20 - 1/71 - The same pots & pans used by the Wife in #7 above.

21 - 1/73 - A perfect opportunity for the Storyteller to stand 'outside' the Tavern and give him movement and some 'interaction' with the story he is telling.

22 - 1/74 - Obviously the 'bedroom window' cannot be there to block the bedroom set. Hence the reason I put a drawing of the front & rear of the tavern on the program. It's a little thing that may not have been needed to 'help' the audience 'see' the tavern from the outside.

22A - For the background singing on the song What Am I To Do, I envision all the other actors up on stage singing background (hiding in the shadows/doorways if not directly involved in the scene) or where they can be heard but not seen.

23 - 1/79 - The placement of Palmer is to help hide any Fish puppet movement for when the Wife exits later on in the scene and puts her hand in the puppet.

24 - 1/82 - Another good improv moment.

25 - 1/86 - This is where the Wife becomes a puppeteer.

26 - 2/2 - If an upper bedroom setting isn't feasible, have it take place out in the garden.

27 - 2/6 - if, as above, there's no stage room for a bedroom, cut out the WIFE's actions during the beginning of the song and have the GIRLS re-enter the tavern instead of going downstairs.

28 - 2/14 - Per above, When the WIFE bids the GIRLS upstairs, just have them stay in the main tavern room with the FISHERMEN.

29 - 2/21 - Per above, Have the GIRLS just exit the set through the front door.

30 - 2/39 - Duct tape rolled around a crushed wad of paper works. For the debut, I located styrofoam rocks at a store.

31 - 2/39 - Not all stages are the same, adjust actions as needed.

32 - 2/52 - For the BUSH BLINDS, I cut a large oval from cardboard and used cable ties to affix lots of branches to the board using a nail to poke holes in the cardboard. I also cut out a circle in the middle big enough for a hand and glued a 12" lg. piece of strapping across the hole as a handle.

33- 2/52 - Here's a good chance to use the audience as the FOREST and do some improv.