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The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon – 2021 Edition

(full-length)

By Don Zolidis

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Full-Length Comedy

5-40+ actors

The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this fast-paced, rollicking ride as two narrators and several actors attempt to combine all 209 stories ranging from classics like Snow White, Cinderella, and Hansel and Gretel to more bizarre, obscure stories like The Devil's Grandmother and The Girl Without Hands. A wild, free-form comedy with lots of audience participation and madcap fun.

Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1 *(female - maybe)*
NARRATOR 2 *(male - maybe)*
ACTOR
GIRL
DIRT MERCHANT
RUMPELSTILTSKIN
ENCHANTRESS
THE DEVIL
PRINCE
RAPUNZEL
PRINCE 2
AUDIENCE MEMBER (in the audience)
HANSEL
GRETEL
WITCH
GIRL WITHOUT HANDS
MOTHER
FATHER
CHET DOBRAY
FISHERGIRL
TALKING FISH
CRAB PERSON 1
CRAB PERSON 2
PRINCESS
FROG PRINCE
KING
DWARF 1
DWARF 2
SNOW WHITE
WITCH 2
PRINCE 3
JOHANNES
RAVEN
KING 2
QUEEN
PLINKIE PLIE
LITTLE RED
THE WOLF
GRANDMA
WOODCUTTER
CINDERELLA
WALT

How to cast this show:
Smallest cast:
This play could be done with a total of 5 actors. With a small cast, the narrators become characters in the scenes as indicated. Everyone should have lots of costumes available.

Largest cast:
Every role is played by a different actor. Different narrators may play the narrator roles in each fairy tale.

Gender, Race, Ethnicity, of actors: Any of the roles may be played by any actor of any gender, race, or ethnicity. There are some moments, when actors switch roles, that it might be funnier if Dwarf 2 was played by a male-presenting person and Snow White was played by a female-presenting person, but in general there's no reason to be overly restrictive in casting. This is all make-believe here.

Act One

The stage can be anything, really.
NARRATOR 1 enters.

NARRATOR 1

Hello and welcome to the Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon.

NARRATOR 2 bursts onto the stage.

NARRATOR 2

SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY! It's EXTREME! See! Monster slaying action as the three-headed pig battles the wolf-o-bot in a bone-crushing cage match of death! They'll huff and they'll puff and they'll kick some iron! Aaaaaaaaah!

Short pause. Narrator 1 blinks.

NARRATOR 1

What we are going to do here today—

NARRATOR 2

And then the battle you've been waiting for: Snow White vs. Sleeping Beauty in a mud-wrestling death match. Who's the toughest of them all?!

NARRATOR 1

Can you stop please?

NARRATOR 2

We've got unhinged princess action! Elsa and Rapunzel in a hair-pulling smackdown! Let go! Let IT GOOOOO!

NARRATOR 1

Okay, stop. We're not doing that.

Narrator 2 ignites a Firestarter.

NARRATOR 2

Flames! Flames!

NARRATOR 1

<*Actor's name*> You're doing it again. What did we talk about?

NARRATOR 2

About not being awesome? Like you?

NARRATOR 1

You're weirding them out.

NARRATOR 2

Fine. But I want you to know that you are no longer extreme in my book. No longer extreme.

He drinks a Red Bull.

NARRATOR 1

This – Is the Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon!

NARRATOR 2

That's right. And what we are about to today is going to blow your mind. You will never be the same. Forget your marriage. Forget your children. If you haven't already.

NARRATOR 1

If you need to go to the bathroom, we'll wait. We don't want accidents.

NARRATOR 2 points to someone in the audience

NARRATOR 2

You look a little touch-and-go miss. Are you sure? You okay? All right then.

(to the other NARRATOR)

Keep an eye on that one.

NARRATOR 1

A little background to begin:

NARRATOR 2

The Brothers Grimm were brothers named Grimm. They are dead. But in the period before they died the Brothers Grimm wrote 209 fairy tales that we know today—

NARRATOR 1

They didn't write them.

NARRATOR 2

The Brothers Grimm did not write 209 fairy tales that we know today, they were frauds. We should dig up their bodies and spit on their corpses.

NARRATOR 1

No I'm just saying they were collectors of stories.

NARRATOR 2

Never mind that last part.

NARRATOR 1

And these stories have become extremely popular. We all know them today:

NARRATOR 2

Such stories as The Wolf and the Seven Young Kids—

NARRATOR 1

The Pack of Ragamuffins—

NARRATOR 2

And Straw, Coal, and Bean.

NARRATOR 1

I forgot about that one.

NARRATOR 2

Oh yeah. Straw, Coal, and Bean? Only the best fairy tale in the entire history of the world. I'm literally like crying buckets by the end of it. Changed my life. I can't even look at straw, coal, or beans anymore.

NARRATOR 1

What's it about?

NARRATOR 2

No idea.

NARRATOR 1

Those might not be household names, but quite a few of these stories have become immortalized in film and television—

NARRATOR 2

Of course they've all been changed by "the mouse"

He lifts a sign into view that says "Disney."

To feed their enormous octopus-like animation empire which sucks the life out of existence and crushes your soul in a death-grip of happy happy songs and talking objects. I can't even speak their name aloud because they're for a way to sue me right now.

He swings a light saber.

You'll never take me alive, imagineers!

NARRATOR 1

You know they own Star Wars too.

NARRATOR 2 *(dropping light saber)*

Ah! They're everywhere!

NARRATOR 1

O-kay. What we are going to do for you right now is return these fairy tales to their original glory. We have assembled the greatest troupe of actors the world has even seen and –

ACTOR enters, scratching themselves.

ACTOR

I thought there was supposed to be catering back here?

NARRATOR 2

There's like a beef thing somewhere.

ACTOR

Where?

NARRATOR 2

I don't know—in the back somewhere.

ACTOR

Is there anything to drink?

NARRATOR 2

No.

Actor exits, annoyed.

NARRATOR 1

These actors are so insanely talented that—

ACTOR *(off-stage)*

I don't see it!

NARRATOR 2

Do you see the radiator?

ACTOR *(off-stage)*

No! Oh wait! No.

NARRATOR 2

There's probably someone sitting on it. Move them.

ACTOR *(off-stage)*

Oh here it is.

ANOTHER ACTOR *(off-stage)*

Hey!

NARRATOR 1

Anyway, in the short time we have, our crack team of actors is going to perform all 209 fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm.

NARRATOR 2

That's like three stories per minute.

NARRATOR 1

Or a different number if you know math. And we're going to keep the original endings intact!

NARRATOR 2

Blood! Violence! Death! People being cut open with scissors!

NARRATOR 1

And to make things more difficult, we're going to perform them as originally intended, which is…

NARRATOR 2

That it's all one giant super mega-juicy story.

NARRATOR 1

Are you ready?!

NARRATOR 2

I'm so excited I'm going to throw up. Does anyone have a hat? Nope? Excuse me then.

NARRATOR 2 exits. NARRATOR 1 stretches and does warm-ups. Perhaps a few wind sprints.

NARRATOR 1

Well I don't know when he'll be back –

We hear sounds of him vomiting off-stage.

So… Once upon a time…

GIRL enters.

There was a girl who was raised by wolves and whose mother died in childbirth and she was abandoned by her father who could spin straw into a gold and made a deal with a series of elves if they would help him make shoes. There was also a talking fox in there somewhere.

NARRATOR 2 *(returning)*

And she was beautiful—

NARRATOR 1

Because no one cares about ugly people.

NARRATOR 2

Whoah.

NARRATOR 1

Point me to an ugly Disney princess.

NARRATOR 2

Snow White.

NARRATOR 1

Literally the Fairest of them all.

NARRATOR 2

Not my thing, sorry. She's got that whiny voice.

NARRATOR 1

Anyway, there was a girl.

NARRATOR 2

And she was poor.

GIRL

Oh I am poor.

NARRATOR 2

Dirt poor.

NARRATOR 1

She couldn't even afford dirt.

DIRT MERCHANT enters.

DIRT MERCHANT

Dirt for sale! Dirt for sale! Hey, you! Get off the merchandise!

He exits.

GIRL *(crying)*

I shall flood the ground with my tears!

Dirt Merchant returns.

DIRT MERCHANT

You're getting it wet! Stop it!

He exits.

GIRL

If only I could live in a boot or make some deals with elves or find a talking fox.

An ENCHANTRESS (played by Narrator 1) enters.

ENCHANTRESS

Excuse me—but I couldn't help overhearing your tale of misery and woe. Tell you what—I will grant you your heart's desire if you give me one small thing.

GIRL

That sounds like a great bargain. I won't even ask what the small thing is because I'm so trusting!

ENCHANTRESS

Excellent.

She makes a magical signal.

I vanish.

She does not actually appear to vanish. Enchantress looks around and covers Girl's eyes.

I vanish again.

she quickly hides behind something.

GIRL

What a nice lady.

THE DEVIL (played by Narrator 2) enters.

THE DEVIL

Hey there hot stuff. Oh wait, that's me. Ha ha ha ha!

GIRL

Are you a prince?

THE DEVIL

Of darkness.

He laughs at his own joke.

Oh that's clever! Now, I happened to overhear your tale of misery and wore and I'm here to help.

GIRL

Well actually I just –

THE DEVIL *(handing her a contract)*

Just sign this one small contract and you shall conceive a daughter so beautiful she will be selected to be in a gameshow with 22 other attractive women competing for the love of –

GIRL

Done.

She signs the contract.

THE DEVIL

Moo ah ha ha ha ha ha!

He looks around. Then runs off.

GIRL

This is a busy street.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN enters, limping and grotesque.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

Hello there.

GIRL

You're hideous and deformed!

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

That's hurtful, but I have a great bargain for –

GIRL

My stomach recoils in horror as you approach!

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

I get that a lot, but –

GIRL

Why has God's creation been so perverted?!

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

Do you want to hear my offer or not?

GIRL

Sure. Go ahead. You're probably trustworthy and I'm stupid and don't judge people by their appearances.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

I shall make you rich, rich I tell you! Beyond your wildest dreams!

GIRL

Really? Because I have some pretty wild dreams.

She takes out a notebook labeled "MY WILD DREAMS" – hands it over - RUMPLETSTILTSKIN opens it up, recoils.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

This is really messed up. You seriously need help. A lot of work has gone into this and it's disturbing.

GIRL

I also want a jet fighter with Tom Cruise in it – when he was 23 and not into the weird stuff.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

He was still into that. He just wasn't advertising.

GIRL

I want a Tom Cruise clone then. That I control.

Skipping Forward

GIRL

You're not helping!

PRINCE

I'm not trying to! You can do it! I'm gonna be over here!

NARRATOR 1

The miracle of childbirth.

GIRL

I hate you I hate you I hate you I hate you

PRINCE

Focus your anger! Focus your anger!

GIRL screams.

GIRL

Aaaaaaaah!

PRINCE

Aaaaaaaah!
Focus your anger! Focus your anger!

GIRL screams. Nothing happens. She screams again.

I can see her little head!

GIRL screams again. A baby doll is thrown in from off stage. PRINCE snatches it out of the air like a Frisbee.

Oh it's so beautiful!

NARRATOR 2

Years passed.

The PRINCE throws the baby off-stage like a Frisbee.

And she grew into a beautiful young teenager, Rapunzel.

PRINCE

I want to revisit the name Rapunzel. What about Amber?

GIRL

That was the name of your ex-girlfriend!

PRINCE

AMBER WAS NICE TO ME!

RAPUNZEL enters, wearing headphones and ignoring everyone.

Are you going to wear your hair like that?

RAPUNZEL

Shut up.

GIRL

Honey, we're going to have dinner so wash your hands.

RAPUNZEL

You can't tell me what to do.

PRINCE

Don't talk to your mother that way. She sold her soul to the devil just to have you—

RAPUNZEL

I don't care. I didn't ask to be born! I'm going out.

GIRL

You're not walking out of this house, young lady!

RAPUNZEL

I do what I want. You don't know me.

GIRL

I'm your mother!

RAPUNZEL

So. I'm gonna go hang with the Frog Prince –

PRINCE

You're gonna get warts!

RAPUNZEL

I don't care.

PRINCE

I've had just about enough of this "parenting"! I'm going golfing.

Prince exits.

RAPUNZEL

Real winner you chose there, Mom.

GIRL

You don't have a lot of time to be choosy when you fall in love at first sight.

NARRATOR 1

And just then…

Narrator 1 switches back to the Enchantress.

ENCHANTRESS

I have returned.

The Devil pops in.

THE DEVIL

Your time is up.

Rumplestilskin returns.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

You know I was in the neighborhood and I was thinking that I forgot something like eighteen years ago, and then I was like, oh yeah, I was supposed to get that thing from that girl. And then here I was, right at your house?

GIRL

What do you want?

ALL THREE

Your child!

They all start arguing amongst themselves.

Girl takes Rapunzel aside.

RAPUNZEL

Mom?!

GIRL

What.

RAPUNZEL

How many deals did you make?

GIRL

Just three. And I may have promised your hand in marriage to a talking rabbit. What? I was young, I needed the money – and the baby – and the prince – but mostly just the money and the baby.

RAPUNZEL

This is why I'm in therapy!

GIRL

Oh honey you're not in therapy because of my deals, you're in therapy because we're terrible parents.

THE DEVIL

You heard what I said – witch.

ENCHANTRESS

For the last time, I'm an Enchantress!

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

Girl, if you can guess my name, I will release you from our bargain.

THE DEVIL

It's Rumplestiltskin.

GIRL

Rumplestiltskin.

Enchantress becomes Narrator 1 for a moment.

NARRATOR 1

And the little man stomped his feet so hard they broke through the floor, and when tried to pull them out, he broke in half.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Seriously? That's how I die? I get my foot caught and break in half trying to get it out?

NARRATOR 1

Yep.

THE DEVIL *(pointing)*

Ha ha.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

That's gotta be the stupidest way to die ever.

NARRATOR 1

Oh there are plenty of more stupid ways to die, and we'll get to them later.

Narrator 2 breaks out of character.

NARRATOR 2

Some of them involve cheese!

NARRATOR 1

Anyway, Rumpelstiltskin broke himself in half. Do it.

Rumpelstiltskin breaks himself in half.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Aaaagghh!

Narrator 1 jumps back into being the Enchantress.

RAPUNZEL

I'm not cleaning that up.

ENCHANTRESS

Now that that horrid little man is gone, I will take Rapunzel.

She grabs one of Rapunzel's arms.

THE DEVIL

Um… excuse me? I'm the Devil.

He grabs her other arm.

I've got more claim than some stupid little witch.

ENCHANTRESS

Enchantress!

THE DEVIL

Whatever. Witch.

ENCHANTRESS

That's it! Let's go!

She drops Rapunzel's arm and takes out a wand.

THE DEVIL

Oh you want some, huh?

He starts feinting towards her.

RAPUNZEL

Mom, let's get out of here!

GIRL

Quiet honey I'm watching this. Go Devil!

She takes out a Duke or Arizona State (or just a sign that says "Go Devil") pennant and starts waving it.

ENCHANTRESS

Expelliarmus!

THE DEVIL

That's a witch spell!

ENCHANTRESS

Fine I curse you!

THE DEVIL

You know what, this is stupid. Tell ya what, if you sign this contract here, I will let you take Rapunzel.

He takes out a contract. It says "EVIL CONTRACT WITH THE DEVIL"

ENCHANTRESS

Oh this seems legit.

She signs it.

THE DEVIL

Moo ah ha ha! And I disappear in a cloud of brimstone!

He slowly disappears making weird motions with his hands. Returns momentarily as Narrator 2.

ENCHANTRESS

Well, come along Rapunzel.

RAPUNZEL

Where are we going?

ENCHANTRESS

I've got this great tower for you.

GIRL

Run along dear.

RAPUNZEL

But Mom, I don't want to go with the evil enchantress.

GIRL

Yeah I didn't want to raise a spoil brat, but sometimes you don't get what you want. Unless you make a deal with the devil and some other weird people. See ya.

Rapunzel exits with the Enchantress.

NARRATOR 2

So the Enchantress took Rapunzel and locked her in a high tower without stairs or door. As for the girl and her prince –

PRINCE returns.

PRINCE

I'm back from my golf trip. What did I miss?

GIRL

The forces of darkness battled it out for our daughter's soul.

PRINCE

Cool. You want to go to Hawai'i?

GIRL

Rock on.

They skip off-stage.

NARRATOR 2

And they lived happily ever after. As for Rapunzel…

Lights up on Rapunzel's tower.

RAPUNZEL

So I'm um just supposed to sit here in lockdown, right?

ENCHANTRESS

Right.

RAPUNZEL

When will I get out?

Enchantress laughs.

ENCHANTRESS

Who knows? Don't leave, don't talk to anyone, and if you get any packages I want you to wipe them down with this 80% alcohol solution.

NARRATOR 2

For some reason this fairy tale seems a lot more reasonable than it used to.

RAPUNZEL

Well, that's fine I guess, I'll just do virtual learning and chat with my friends online.

NARRATOR 2

But there was no wi-fi.

RAPUNZEL

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

Rapunzel takes out her cell phone.

NARRATOR 2

Well, actually, there was a really weak signal she could hook into if she stood on a chair in the right place.

Rapunzel has her phone lifted above her head, stands on a chair, and tries to get a signal.

RAPUNZEL

Wait a minute – wait a minute – one bar one bar – OH COME ON.

ENCHANTRESS
Guess you'll have to read books and wash your hair with these radioactive hair care products…

NARRATOR 2
So Rapunzel spent her days trying to get a signal and ignoring the books and in the meantime, her hair grew and grew. Mutated really. She became a mutant.

Rapunzel puts on a gigantic, ropy wig.

RAPUNZEL *(looking at herself in a mirror)*
This is a problem.

NARRATOR 2
And for no apparent reason, the Enchantress decided to use her hair as a ladder.

ENCHANTRESS *(shouting up)*
Rapunzel! Let down your hair to me!

RAPUNZEL *(shouting down)*
Why didn't you build stairs?!

ENCHANTRESS *(shouting up)*
My architect was drunk!

RAPUNZEL *(shouting down)*
Why don't you use your magical powers to fly up here!?

ENCHANTRESS *(shouting up)*
For the last time, I'm an Enchantress, not a witch!

RAPUNZEL *(under her breath)*
Witch.

NARRATOR 2
So up climbed the Enchantress.

The Enchantress climbs up Rapunzel's hair.

RAPUNZEL *(continuous)*
Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow. Stop it. Ow. Ow.

ENCHANTRESS *(overlapping)*
Would it hurt you to wash this? Hold still. There's a bird's nest in here. Stop moving. You're ruining this.

RAPUNZEL *(continuous)*
Ow. Ow. Ow. OWWWWW! Ow. Ow. Ow.

Skipping Forward

Pause.

PRINCE 2

I think it's gonna rain today.

RAPUNZEL

Is it?

PRINCE 2

Yeah. It rained yesterday.

RAPUNZEL

That's a lot of rain.

PRINCE 2

Good for the crops.

RAPUNZEL

Oh yes. The crops.

PRINCE 2

So uh… what do you like to do?

RAPUNZEL

Mostly I just sit here in my tower. Actually that's all I do. Sit here and comb my hair.

NARRATOR 2

Okay stop. What's the problem?

PRINCE 2

We have nothing to talk about.

RAPUNZEL

I don't have any interests.

PRINCE 2

I mean, she's a shut-in—

RAPUNZEL *(interjecting)*

It's not my fault!

PRINCE 2

What are we going to talk about? Politics? I'll say something witty and then she'll say she's been locked in a tower for nine years and then I'll talk about the intrigue at court and she'll say she's been locked in a tower for nine years.

RAPUNZEL

I've been locked in a tower for nine years.

NARRATOR 2

You fall in love at first sight.

PRINCE 2

I'm just going on appearance here? That's pretty shallow.

RAPUNZEL

Shouldn't we get to know each other first? I mean I think I would think less of the prince if he just fell in love with me by looking at me. Shouldn't he get to know the inner me?

PRINCE 2

There is no inner you. You've been locked in a tower for nine years.

RAPUNZEL

I have a very detailed journal.

NARRATOR 2

Stop it. This is a fairy tale. We're trying to get through them all. You fall in love at first sight. Okay? Bam! You're in love.

Pause. They look at each other.

PRINCE 2

Not feeling it.

RAPUNZEL *(simultaneously)*

I want him to be taller.

PRINCE 2

Oh so now you're picky about the princes wandering by your tower.

NARRATOR 2

Bam! Love.

They look at each other again.

PRINCE 2

Nope. Still nothing.

RAPUNZEL

I felt something that time.

PRINCE 2

There was like a breeze that just happened.

RAPUNZEL

Oh. Maybe that was it.

NARRATOR 2

Bam! Love!

PRINCE 2

I love you!

RAPUNZEL

I love you too for all the wrong reasons!

PRINCE 2

That's good enough for me!

NARRATOR 2

And they fell in love. But their time was short.

PRINCE 2

I must away.

RAPUNZEL

I must remain.

PRINCE 2

Goodbye, my love.
He climbs down the hair.

RAPUNZEL

Goodbye. Ow. My. Ow. Love. OWWWW!

PRINCE

Sorry.

RAPUNZEL

No problem. Ow. Ow. Ow.
He makes it down.
The Enchantress returns as RAPUNZEL begins gathering up her hair.

ENCHANTRESS

Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Let down your hair!

RAPUNZEL

What am I, a ladder?

She throws her hair down.

Owowowowowowowow.

The Enchantress climbs up very quickly.

ENCHANTRESS

Who was that?

RAPUNZEL

Nobody.

ENCHANTRESS

Don't lie to me! You just had a man over!

RAPUNZEL

You're being overprotective!

ENCHANTRESS

I know what's best for you!

RAPUNZEL

I want to go out and hang out with friends!

ENCHANTRESS

They're a bad influence on you! I kept you here to protect you, don't you see? That's why you're home-schooled. Because modern society is horrible, darling. And if you go out there and hear a bad word or see something suggestive you're going to fall apart and live the rest of your life strung out on drugs and riding on the back of a guy named Tank's Harley. Don't you see? I did it for you.

RAPUNZEL

Oh. You're just trying to protect me from the real world. I get it now.

ENCHANTRESS

See? It's because I love you that I lock you away in a tower and don't let anyone near you. I don't want to see you make the same mistakes I did so I'm taking away any possibility that you make any decisions whatsoever. It's called parenting. Your parents would have done the same thing if I didn't steal you from them.

RAPUNZEL

Yeah my real parents were jerks.

ENCHANTRESS

Which is what makes this all the more difficult.

She takes out a pair of scissors.

NARRATOR 2

And with two snips.

The Enchantress cuts off Rapunzel's hair.

RAPUNZEL

Aaaaaah! I'm bald!!!

ENCHANTRESS

Yes. And now I'm going to banish you to a desert where you can wander for the rest of your life and think about how you disappointed me.

Rapunzel exits.

Narrator 1 rejoins the action.

NARRATOR 2

Now, I know what some of you out there are thinking:

NARRATOR 1

She needed a haircut.

NARRATOR 2

You're thinking: that was some pretty harsh parenting.

NARRATOR 1

Tough love. It's all here in this book:
What to Expect when you're Expecting to Live in a Fairy Tale. It's a handy guide for all you parents out there wanting to make deals with supernatural entities. Let's hear some customer reviews!

A MOTHER enters, with the GIRL WITHOUT HANDS.

MOTHER

This book was so helpful! I accidentally made a deal with the Devil for my daughter's soul. Whoopsie!

NARRATOR 1

Happens all the time, don't worry about it.

MOTHER

And this book described how to chop off my daughter's hands so the Devil couldn't cart her away!

Mom exits.

THE GIRL WITHOUT HANDS *(maniacally cheerful)*

Thanks Mom! I'd give you a thumbs up, but… I don't have hands!

She dances off.

FATHER enters.

FATHER

My son used to steal food from my table. And this book showed me how to curse him so that when he tried to steal a chicken, it turned into a giant venomous toad that wanted to eat his face! Now, he has to feed the giant toad wherever he goes! It's awesome! Thanks What to Expect when you're Expecting to Live in a Fairy Tale!

He gives a big thumbs up.

NARRATOR 2

Can we get back to our story please?

NARRATOR 1

Right-o.

Narrator 1 becomes the Enchantress.

(Or The Enchantress returns).

I'll just put Rapunzel's hair on my head and wait for that hunky prince.

She puts the giant wig on her head as Prince 2's camera turns on.

PRINCE 2

Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Let down your hair!

ENCHANTRESS

Here you are my darling!

She throws her hair down. The PRINCE climbs it.

Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow. OWWWWW! Ow.

PRINCE 2

Ah! You're not Rapunzel!

ENCHANTRESS

Oh so now you're picky about who's up here in the tower?

PRINCE 2

I am a mighty prince and I will defeat you!

NARRATOR 2

And with that, the Prince jumped out the window. And fell. A long way.

Prince 2 mimes jumping and a fake prince body is thrown in from off-stage (or tossed down from a catwalk.

PRINCE 2

Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow. Ouch. Ooh.

NARRATOR 2

And as luck would have it he hit a thorn bush which poked out both his eyes.

PRINCE

Aacck.

ENCHANTRESS

That's really too bad. I liked him. You know, I have this weird feeling that I'm slightly responsible for this situation. I'm over it. O-kay, what's on the calendar for today?

She takes out a pocket calendar.

Turning a man into a golden goose. That should be rewarding.

She exits.

NARRATOR 2

And so the Prince wandered around blind.

Prince 2 wanders through the audience, bumping into things.

PRINCE 2

Sorry about that. Sorry. Pardon me. Ouch. Hope that's not valuable. I didn't mean to touch you there.

NARRATOR 2

Until he coincidentally wandered into a desert.

PRINCE 2

Is it getting hot out here?

NARRATOR 2

Where he ran into—you guessed it.

Rapunzel enters.

RAPUNZEL

My prince!

She hugs him.

NARRATOR 2

And she cried on his eyes and that magically healed him.

PRINCE 2

I can see! What did you do to your hair?

NARRATOR 2

And they lived happily ever after. In the desert. With no kingdom or hair care products. The end.

Narrator 1 returns.

NARRATOR 1

But our story is not even remotely finished.

NARRATOR 2

No wait, it is finished. It's not yet begun.

NARRATOR 1

That's right.

NARRATOR 2

So let's go back to that girl—Rapunzel's mother.

NARRATOR 1

You might be familiar with her mother.

GRETEL enters.
Narrator 2 becomes HANSEL.
Both Gretel and Hansel speak with exaggerated German accents.

HANSEL

Gretel! What are you doing out?!

GRETEL

Nothing.

HANSEL

You seem moody lately. As if something were bothering you.

GRETEL

Ya… It's… our mother. You see, our mother died before we were born.

HANSEL

I remember.

NARRATOR 1

Our next story: Hansel. And. Gretel. Or: The original horror movie.

GRETEL

I'm haunted Hansel. Haunted by her memory.

HANSEL

Ya I too am haunted. Perhaps we ought to go into the woods where it's dark and scary.

NARRATOR 1

Can we get some cool lighting effects please?

A cool lighting effect happens. NARRATOR 1 addresses part of the audience.

Okay. Now you people over here. Awake? Good. Here's what we're going to do. When I point to you I want you to make a scary horror movie music sound like this.

imitating the sound of a well-known horror movie.)

Ch-ch-ch-ch-ch. A-a-a-a-a-a. Ch-ch-ch-ch-ch. A-a-a-a-a-a. Can we try that?

The Audience tries it. NARRATOR 1 ad libs a reaction such as "you suck" "what horror movies have you been watching?" "This guy isn't scary" etc. He may make them try again as needed before moving to another section of the audience.

Now, you guys. You look a little smarter than those people over there. I'm sorry, it's true. Look at this guy over here. He's a freaking genius. Right? He's a freaking genius. Now—when I point to you, I want you to say, "Don't go in there!" Okay, let's try that. One. Two Three.

The Audience says, "Don't go in there!" NARRATOR 1 ad libs reaction before moving to a third section.

Now you guys. No good horror movie is complete without heavy breathing. Like this:

He does heavy breathing.

You try it.

Points to a couple in the audience.

Um… you need to take it outside, okay? This is a family show.

He addresses the entire audience.

All right? Everybody got it?! One last test.

He points at each group in turn very quickly.

And back with our story.

GRETEL

Hansel, I am worried.

HANSEL

Why?

GRETEL

I overheard our wicked stepmother saying she was going to take us into the woods and leave us to be eaten by wolves.

HANSEL

Ya she does that.

GRETEL

I say we go into the woods ourselves.

AUDIENCE

DON'T GO IN THERE!

HANSEL

Okay, let's go.

They hop forward.

Perhaps the lights change again. Maybe they have flashlights now.

Skipping Forward

I TOLD YOU! I TOLD YOU BUT YOU DIDN'T LISTEN! WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?! I SAID `DON'T GO IN THERE' AND YOU WENT IN! YOU WENT IN! WHYYYYY?!

NARRATOR 1

Sir?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

What?

NARRATOR 1

Can we keep doing the play please?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

You said it was a horror movie so –

NARRATOR 1

Let's take it down a notch, all right?

Audience Member sits back down.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

My bad, my bad.

GRETEL

Were you eating the house, Hansel?

HANSEL

Maybe? I was hungry. It was made of candy! You should try the floorboards, they're really tasty.

WITCH

I'm so disappointed in today's young people. You think you can build a house out of candy and no one's going to disturb it, but noooo… two of you little brats have to come along and start munching on the walls! In my day, we had houses made of candy and the kids knew enough to leave them alone. I'm going to have to teach you a lesson.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

OH DANG IT! I KNEW IT! GET OUT! GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!

GRETEL

What kind of lesson?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

SHE'S GONNA EAT YOU! WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO HER?! RUN!

WITCH

But first, why don't you want more candy?

AUDIENCE MEMBER
NO! SHE'S JUST FATTENING YOU UP! THAT'S ALL SHE'S DOING!

NARRATOR 1
So Hansel and Gretel stayed with the witch and ate and ate –
Audience Member stomps around and throws things, protesting.

AUDIENCE MEMBER
DUMB!

NARRATOR 1
And they got fatter and fatter – and the witch was very nice to them.

AUDIENCE MEMBER
I'M LOOKING AT THE PROGRAM AND IT SAYS WITCH RIGHT HERE! SHE'S A WITCH!

HANSEL
Why does my cologne smell like gravy?
Audience Member raises their hand vigorously.

GRETEL
Look, she gave me this apple to put in my mouth? Wasn't that nice?
Gretel puts the apple in her mouth.

AUDIENCE MEMBER
OH COME ON!

WITCH
Well, my children, I am just an old woman in the woods –

AUDIENCE MEMBER
NO SHE AIN'T! I'VE GOT THE PROGRAM RIGHT HERE!

WITCH
And I could use some help.

HANSEL
What is it?

WITCH
Could you spritz yourself with sugar water please first?

HANSEL

Ya okay.

WITCH

I need some help cleaning out… my oven.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

OH HECK NO! NOOO! DON'T DO IT!

HANSEL

Oh I can help with that.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

NO! NO YOU IDIOT!

Narrator 1 points to the audience group.

AUDIENCE

DON'T GO IN THERE!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

DON'T GO IN THERE! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE HAVE TO TELL YOU! DON'T GO IN THERE DON'T GO IN THERE!

WITCH

Come along, Hamsel.

HANSEL

It's Hansel.

WITCH

Oh right. Hansel.

She chuckles evilly.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

OHHHH I CAN'T WATCH!

GRETEL

Oh. Hey. I dropped a quarter. Can you pick it up?

WITCH

A quarter?

She bends down.

GRETEL

Eat this, witch!

Gretel makes a shoving motion towards the witch.

WITCH

Aaaaaaaah!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

YESSSS! WOOO! YESSS! YESS!

HANSEL

You did it.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Wait a minute. She ain't dead. This is where they get you. Don't let your guard down.

GRETEL

Yes, it is all happy now.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

No it isn't! She's coming back! I've seen this movie!

HANSEL

How about we eat the rest of the house?

GRETEL

Good idea.

They start snacking. Witch rises up.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

NO I SEE HER! I SEE HER SHE'S RIGHT THERE! SHE'S BEHIND YOU AGAIN YOU IDIOTS!

Gretel turns and shoves her back in.

WITCH

I'm melting! Oh wait… I'm burning!

She dies.

HANSEL

Ding dong the witch is dead!

NARRATOR 1

Wrong story.

HANSEL

I get so confused.

NARRATOR 1
So they made it. But the horror wasn't over. Because early childhood trauma can affect a lot of fairy tale heroes. And Hansel… well… let's just say he developed a problem.

HANSEL
Gretel, you want to try fairy dust?

GRETEL
No, Hansel. You have a problem and you need help.

HANSEL
It lets you fly.

GRETEL
It doesn't let you fly, Hansel. Drugs are bad.

HANSEL
These are natural. From ground-up fairies. Let me show you.

NARRATOR 1
And he jumped off a cliff.

HANSEL
I can fly! Maybe.

NARRATOR 1
It's up to you, audience. If you clap hard enough, Hansel will live. Come on people!

HANSEL *(imploring the audience)*
Come on people! Let me live!

NARRATOR 1
Come on! Don't you believe a boy can fly!?! Come on!
A light begins to shine on Hansel, growing brighter.
Come you can do it!
The light and noise crescendo.

HANSEL *(desperate)*
Come on out there! Please!
The light suddenly goes out.

HANSEL
Aaaaaaaah.
Hansel makes a "splat!" noise.
Pause. Narrator 1 looks sad.

NARRATOR 1

You didn't clap hard enough. He died. You know I've… done this show a lot. And every time the audience clapped hard enough to let Hansel live. Every time. I just don't know what to say.

NARRATOR 1 picks someone in the audience.

I think really it comes down to this guy. This guy right here. He didn't clap hard enough. His heart wasn't really into it. How do you face your children, sir? How do you face your children?

if the AUDIENCE member is about to respond.

Don't talk to me.

GRETEL

Hansel?

NARRATOR 1

I'm sorry Gretel.

GRETEL

Oh no. Fairy dust has claimed another young life.

NARRATOR 1

He's in a better place now, Gretel. Where his stupidity can't hurt him anymore.

GRETEL

Canada?

NARRATOR 1

If you want it to be Canada.

NARRATOR 1 *(suddenly chipper again)*

Anyway, after Hansel's untimely death, thank you very much Jim, she married a wandering woodcutter. And they had a daughter. Who would grow up to make a deal with several supernatural entities who would eventually imprison her daughter in the tower.

Narrator 2 returns.

NARRATOR 2

But.

NARRATOR 1

There's always a but.

NARRATOR 2

One question remains:

NARRATOR 1

Where did the witch come from?

NARRATOR 2

Funny you should ask. You see it all started a long time before this. In a little village near the ocean.

Narrator 2 makes ocean sounds: a fog horn, seagulls, the spray of the waves.

FISHERGIRL enters. She's carrying a fishing pole and is in a "boat."
Narrator 2 takes a microphone.

NARRATOR 2

Here we are at the Bassmaster 1300 AD Classic! What are they playing for, *<actor's name>?*

Narrator 1 becomes another announcer with a microphone.

NARRATOR 1

They are playing for food on the table.

NARRATOR 2

Sounds great! Sounds great! What do you think your chances are out there, miss?

FISHERGIRL

Well I just wanna stay within myself and take it one fish at a time. You know, just do my thing.

NARRATOR 2

What about your competition out there?

FISHERGIRL

I try not to think about the competition. I just try to fish.

NARRATOR 1

Well good luck! No one's caught a fish here in weeks! All the people in the village are starving!

NARRATOR 2

No pressure! But everyone's gonna die if you don't get a fish! Good luck out there!

Fishergirl pushes out to sea. She mimes paddling at first, then gets tired and mimes starting an outboard motor. Narrator 2 makes more ocean noises.

Narrator 1 whispers into her microphone in a play-by-play.

NARRATOR 1

And the action is hot here in the Bassmaster 1300, with me as always is Chet Dobray, the most exciting personality in fishing.

Enter CHET DOBRAY, wearing a sleeveless vest and a hat with a lot of lures on it. He spits.

CHET

Ayup.

NARRATOR 1

Chet, you've seen a lot of fishing action, can you give us a sense of the explosive display of fishing we're about to witness today?

CHET

They're gonna fish.

NARRATOR 1

Amazing. And what kind of lures are they using out there?

CHET

Looks like worms. Yup. Definitely worms.

NARRATOR 1

And why would you use worms?

CHET

Ain't got nothing else.

NARRATOR 1

Let's watch the thrilling action!

They both stare at Fishergirl.

Nothing happens.

CHET

Nothing happenin' right now.

They keep staring.

Right now she's fishin.

They keep staring.

Still nothin' happenin.

NARRATOR 1

And when would you expect something to happen, Chet?

CHET

Right before she catches a fish.

The Fishergirl gets a bite. She tugs on her line.

Like now.

The Fishergirl tugs and tugs.

Looks like a big `un.

The Fishergirl mimes tugging on her line and TALKING FISH is pulled in front off-stage, struggling and flopping.

FISHERGIRL

It's huge! I'm going to eat for a month!

TALKING FISH

You've caught me.

FISHERGIRL

Aaaaaaaaaaah! It talks!

She takes out a rubber club and beats him again and again.

TALKING FISH

Ow. Ow. Ow! Ow. Stop it. Ow!

FISHERGIRL *(continuing to beat the fish)*

Die die die you unholy abomination!

TALKING FISH

No please! Help! Ow. Ow. STOP IT!

Fishergirl stops, panting.

Listen. I'll make a deal with you.

FISHERGIRL

I don't make deals with the devil!

She beats it again. Talking Fish tries in vain to save himself.

TALKING FISH

Ow! Ow! I'm not the Devil! I'm just a talking fish! *Please stop hitting me!*

FISHERGIRL

Why won't you die?!

TALKING FISH

Please! If you let me live I'll give you a wish!

Pause. She stops beating him and thinks about it.

NARRATOR 1

And she appears to have caught a wish-granting fish, Chet.

CHET

Ayup. Those are bonus points. Plus the wish part.

NARRATOR 1

What do you think she would wish for?

CHET

Um… I'm gonna say a burger. Cause those are tasty.

NARRATOR 1

Let's listen in!

FISHERGIRL

I wish… for three more wishes.

NARRATOR 1

Oh! Brilliant move!

CHET

That's a good wish. I wish I woulda thoughta that when I caught one.

TALKING FISH *(pointing at Chet)*

Done! You still had one left!

CHET

Dang it.

FISHERGIRL

You heard me: I wish for three more wishes.

TALKING FISH

Um… you can't do that.

FISHERGIRL

Why not?

TALKING FISH

It's against the rules.

FISHERGIRL

Fine, I'll just kill you and eat you then.
She raises her club again.

TALKING FISH

Wait! How about two wishes?

FISHERGIRL

Okay.

NARRATOR 1

Wow! That took guts!

Skipping Forward

CRAB PERSON 2

Death to humans!

NARRATOR 2

There are no Crab People!

NARRATOR 1

That's what you think, or hope, but the Crab People exist, underwater, plotting our ruin.

CRAB PERSON 1

Do you want Italians for dinner tonight?

CRAB PERSON 2

We had Italians last night.

CRAB PERSON 1

Mexican?

CRAB PERSON 2

They're too spicy.

CRAB PERSON 1

Well tell me what you want then, cause I'm not cooking!

CRAB PERSON 2

Why do you gotta talk to me like that? I thought we were a team.

CRAB PERSON 1

Oh here were go again.

CRAB PERSON 2

I never should have married you! My sister was right!

CRAB PERSON 1

Boy somebody's crabby today.

CRAB PERSON 2

Oh nice joke! I've never heard that one before! Oh I'm crabby cause I'm a crab! You need to shut up!

They begin fighting with their pincers.

NARRATOR 1

Okay. There were no crab people. Crab people are stupid.

The Crab People protest.

CRAB PERSON 1

We'll get you for this!

CRAB PERSON 2

You have not heard the last of the crab people!

CRAB PEOPLE *(chanting)*

Crab People Crab People Crab People Crab People

Narrator 2 pushes them off-stage.

NARRATOR 2

So where did the talking fish come from?

NARRATOR 1

The moon.

NARRATOR 2

The moon?

NARRATOR 1

I don't know! It doesn't say! I'm going crazy here! There's a lot of pressure to make this all make sense. And to be honest, I don't even think that talking fish story was a Brothers Grimm fairy tale.

NARRATOR 2

Get a hold of yourself!

Narrator 2 slaps Narrator 1 in the face.

NARRATOR 1

Ah! No good!

Narrator 2 slaps Narrator 1 again.

I'm better now.

Narrator 2 is about slap Narrator 1, but she stops him and slaps him first.

NARRATOR 2

I deserved that.

NARRATOR 1

What are we going to do?

FROG PRINCE enters, dressed as a frog.

NARRATOR 2

Oh wait – I know. Because the Talking Fish had once cursed someone else.

FROG PRINCE

Ooh I know!

NARRATOR 2

Shhh. We'll get to you.

FROG PRINCE

Ribbit.

Frog Prince lays low.

NARRATOR 2

Once upon a time. There was a Princess.

PRINCESS enters. She has a golden ball she's playing with.

PRINCESS

Oh look! I have a ball! Oh whoops I dropped it!

NARRATOR 2

A clumsy princess.

PRINCESS

Oh no I kicked into that pond over there!

She boots the ball off-stage.

NARRATOR 2

A clumsy stupid princess.

The Frog Prince returns, holding the ball.

FROG PRINCE *(trying to be suave)*

Drop something?

PRINCESS

IT'S A TALKING FROG!!!! WHAT THE HECK! AAAAAHHH! I'M GOING CRAZY! I'm insane now! The animals are talking! Help!

She runs around in a circle and collapses.

NARRATOR 2

And several hours later after she calmed down with the help of her soothing stone…

Princess gets up, rubbing a smooth stone robotically, shivering and twitching.

PRINCESS

The frogs are talking… the frogs are talking… I am in a horror movie…

FROG PRINCE

Um… so… is this your ball?

PRINCESS *(talking to herself)*
He's not talking to me. It's just a hallucination, it's just a hallucination.

FROG PRINCE
Look, I'll let you have your ball back if you let me hang out with you.

NARRATOR 2
He was a lonely frog.

PRINCESS *(talking to herself, shaking)*
If you ignore him, he's not real…

FROG PRINCE
So I guess that's a deal then, huh?

PRINCESS
Okay.
The Frog Prince hands the ball back.
Ha!
She runs off-stage.

FROG PRINCE
Hey wait up. Darn it.
He hops after her.

NARRATOR 1
So when she got home.
Narrator 2 becomes the King.
Princess enters and looks around. She creeps past the King.

KING
Hi honey.

PRINCESS
Hey Dad. Can't talk!

NARRATOR 1
And she locked herself in her room.

PRINCESS
I'm not crazy, I'm not crazy.

KING *(calling off-stage)*
Honey, our daughter's acting weird again. She gets this from your side of the family.

He exits.

PRINCESS

Where is my soothing stone, where is my soothing stone?

She rubs her stone and tries to calm herself down.

The Frog Prince hops back in and knocks on her door.

What?

FROG PRINCE

Forget something?

PRINCESS

Aaaaaaaaaah!

She dives out of view.

Princess pops up (perhaps with boxing gloves on) and mimes punching the frog in the face repeatedly.

FROG PRINCE

You. Ow. Said. Ow. You. Ow. Would. Ow. Be my friend.

He falls down.

PRINCESS

I suppose if I kill you you're going to haunt me.

FROG PRINCE

Probably.

PRINCESS

All right I'll be your friend.

NARRATOR 1

So they became best friends and the Princess locked the frog in a drawer next to her bed.

She shoves him behind something.

FROG PRINCE

Let me out. Hey! It's dark in here! I want some flies.

Princess takes out a teen magazine and reads it.

PRINCESS

You're fine.

FROG PRINCE

Can I stay in the bed with you because I—

PRINCESS

Nope.

NARRATOR 1

But the frog was very persistent.

*Frog Prince takes out a harmonica plays a sad number.**

**Feel free to cut if your Frog Prince can't play a harmonica.*

FROG PRINCE

I'm innocent I tell you! I wanna be a free frog!

PRINCESS

Tough!

FROG PRINCE

I'm dying. Tell my tadpoles I loved them. Little Kermit… Daddy loves you… sorry I couldn't be there for you because I couldn't recognize you.

PRINCESS

Okay frog. I guess you can stay in the bed.

Frog jumps in with her.

NARRATOR 1

But he was still after something.

FROG PRINCE

I'm so dry. I need moisture. Maybe a kiss from—

PRINCESS

You're gross!

NARRATOR 1

But the frog kept pressuring her—

Narrator 1 points at the Frog Prince.

FROG PRINCE

If we were really friends you'd kiss me.

Narrator 1 points again.

I must be hideous. That's why you don't love me.

Narrator 1 points again.

Hey what's that over there?

Frog Prince puckers his lips and misses.

NARRATOR 1

And the Princess was very concerned, so she talked to her father, the King.

The King re-appears.

Frog Prince gets himself ready while this is happening – chapstick, maybe some AXE body spray. Checks his hair.

PRINCESS
Daddy, I have this friend. And she like, agreed to be friends with this talking frog because he found her ball. But then… this frog is like, pressuring her? To kiss him? What should she do?

KING
There's a talking frog?

PRINCESS
Maybe.

KING
Honey? Are you the talking frog?

PRINCESS
No. I'm the friend! Oh—I shouldn't have told you that.

KING
Look, darling, you made a deal with this frog, didn't you?

PRINCESS
Yeah.

KING
So you gave your word. So I guess you know what you need to do.

PRINCESS
But I think of him as more of a friend than a boyfriend.

KING
Let me tell you a little story about your father when he was your age: You see, I was something of a dork.

PRINCESS
Daddy!

KING
I was. But I was a nice guy. And there was a girl who I was friends with. And she was beautiful. Absolutely gorgeous. And we used to walk home from school every day and she'd tell me all the problems she was having with whatever popular boy she was dating at the time, and I'd listen, and I'd listen, and I listened to her every day. And she would always say, "why can't they be nice like you?" I was in love with that girl. And I just kept waiting for my chance. Until one day

she had gotten dumped and she came over to my house in the middle of the night and she gave me this huge hug. I thought, now's my chance. So I leaned in to kiss her—

PRINCESS

And that's how you and Mom got together?

KING

And she said, "what are you doing? I don't want to ruin our friendship." It was as if my heart had been ripped from my chest and popped like a grape. And she looked down at the crushed, oozing juice of my soul and said, "um… I don't think so." Like she had dismembered my love with a meat cleaver and used the blood-spattered wreckage of my life as a cage liner for her pet cockatiel Ramon to poop on. As if she—

PRINCESS

Wait a minute. What if you weren't actually a nice guy? What if you were really annoying and not very attractive and you just expected this girl to look past your appearance and personality, but you never looked past her appearance because you were superficial and shallow. And maybe when she said she wanted to be friends, what she really meant was that you acted like you had an expectation that just because you liked her, she was obligated to like you back. But it doesn't work that way. If you really wanted her to kiss you, you should've just been yourself and accepted the fact that she didn't like you and she didn't just exist for your gratification.

KING

Um…

PRINCESS

I know what I need to do. Good talk, Dad.

She returns back to the Frog Prince.

Look, I'm setting clear boundaries. If you want to be friends, that's cool, but I don't like you like that, and I'm not going to tell you twice. Either we're friends, or you go back to your pond and live with your kids.

FROG PRINCE

Did I mention I was cursed by a witch and I'm actually a swimsuit model?

PRINCESS

Give me some sugar.

She kisses towards the frog.

NARRATOR 1

And the spell that had turned him into a frog was broken.

FROG PRINCE

I'm human again! My abs have returned!

PRINCESS

Sweet! You're gorgeous!

FROG PRINCE

I know! Let's get married!

PRINCESS

Done!

They dance obnoxiously.

NARRATOR 1

And they lived happily ever after. Because everything always works out for pretty people in fairy tales.

Narrator 2 returns.

But that -

NARRATOR 2

Is just half of our story. Because there is more to come.

NARRATOR 1

Madness! Death! People eating other people! Things that go bump in the night!

NARRATOR 2

So run to the bathroom. Run! Do not walk! Check your email if you haven't already been secretly doing that the entire time doing the show I see you I see you I see what you're doing!

NARRATOR 1

But be back here soon for the greatest second act in the history of the theatre.

Lights Down.

End of Act One

Act Two

Narrator 2 enters.

NARRATOR 2

Hey. What's up? *<Narrator 1's real name>* got stuck in the line for the bathroom, so we're going to do a segment I call: meet the actors.

Actor strolls on stage.

ACTOR

What's up?

NARRATOR 2

Why did you become an Actor?

ACTOR

My parents didn't love me enough and this is the way of filling the gigantic hole in my heart.

Actor exits.

NARRATOR 2

All right then.

Narrator 1 enters.

NARRATOR 1

Sorry about that.

NARRATOR 2

All right, we're ready to go! To Re-Cap:

NARRATOR 1 *(in one breath)*

Once upon a time there was a princess who kissed a frog who happened to betray a talking fish who was caught by a fishergirl who wished for gold but instead became a witch who tried to eat two children one of whom married a woodcutter whose daughter grew up to make a deal with the devil, an enchantress and a weird little man for her first born child who would eventually be locked in a tower before having her hair cut off and meeting a prince in the desert. And there were no crab people.

NARRATOR 2

Simple, right? Back to our story!

NARRATOR 1

You see, that princess who married the frog had a mother.

NARRATOR 2

Most girls do. It's a real problem. Remember out there: If you wonder what your girlfriend is going to be like in the future, look at her mother. Because that's who she's going to become.

NARRATOR 1

Do you ever wonder why you're single?

NARRATOR 2

No I know why I'm single.

NARRATOR 1

Anyway, once upon a time—

NARRATOR 2

My standards are too high.

Narrator 2 exits.

NARRATOR 1

ONCE. Upon a time. There was a dwarf.

DWARF 1 enters.

DWARF 1

I prefer little person.

NARRATOR 1

In fact, two dwarves.

DWARF 2 (played by Narrator 2) enters.

DWARF 2

I prefer dwarf.

NARRATOR 1

And these dwarves worked all day in the mines.

DWARF 1 *(singing)*

I've been workin' on the railroad—

NARRATOR 1

Mines!

DWARF 2 *(singing)*

Whistle while you work

NARRATOR 1

We can't use that song.

Skipping Forward

NARRATOR 2

Both of you stop, okay? We're doing a new one, Lean Lisa.

SNOW WHITE

Never heard of it. Am I beautiful?

NARRATOR 2

You're lean.

SNOW WHITE

Ooh. Skinny.

DWARF 1

Have you thought about ingesting tape worm eggs? It really cleans you out on the inside.

NARRATOR 2

So once upon a time, Lean Lisa lay in bed with her husband, Long Laurence.

DWARF 1

Do I get to be Long Laurence?

NARRATOR 2

Yes.

DWARF 1

Sweet.

Dwarf 1 and Snow White rearrange themselves.

SNOW WHITE

Dear husband, I was thinking.

DWARF 1

I'm trying to sleep, woman.

SNOW WHITE

I'm tired of being poor and hungry. What if we took the cow in the field and tried to get her to have calves? Then we could raise the calves and sell them and we'd have enough money to buy more animals. And then we wouldn't have to starve any more.

DWARF 1

That sounds like a lot of work.

SNOW WHITE

You're lazy!

DWARF 1

Quiet your wagging tongue woman!

Dwarf 1 strangles Snow White.

NARRATOR 2

And she died. The end.

Snow White falls over. The end.

NARRATOR 1

Seriously? That's what it says?

NARRATOR 2

Right here.

NARRATOR 1

Wow. That story's awful.

Snow White wakes up again.

SNOW WHITE

Can I go back to being Sleeping Beauty now?

DWARF 1

She's alive! Kill her!

NARRATOR 2

I thought you were supposed to be Snow White.

SNOW WHITE

Can anyone really tell the difference? Seriously, they're the same story.

NARRATOR 2

Anyway, what I'm saying is that these stories need some spicing up here and there. A new angle. A new way of putting them together.

NARRATOR 1

Fine. I don't care anymore. Whatever. I'm sure this Dwarf is going to do a better job than me. Go ahead take my place.

Dwarf 1 jumps up.

DWARF 1

Sounds good.

NARRATOR 1

Wait, I didn't—

DWARF 1

All right, you're gonna be Dwarf 1, all right?

Narrator 1 puts on a beard.

<*Narrator 2 actor's name*> You're Dwarf 2. I'm the new narrator.

SNOW WHITE

Am I still Snow White?

DWARF 1

You're whatever you want to be honey. Call me. So, once upon a time there was a house filled with dwarves. And these dwarves worked in the mines beneath the surface of the earth and swore revenge at the up-worlders.

NARRATOR 1

Curse you, up-worlders!

DWARF 1

And one day they came home to find a beautiful girl sleeping in their bed.

NARRATOR 1

Hey look! A giant hottie!

DWARF 2

She's huge! She's going to eat me! Run for it!

Narrator 1 holds up a hand.

NARRATOR 1

Hold on, Dwarf number two. I'm tired of running. I'm tired of being a supporting character. This is my time. You see, I happen to be quite brilliant and I know for a fact that this giant hottie has fallen under a curse to sleep for a hundred years.

DWARF 2

I thought that was the Sleeping Beauty story.

NARRATOR 1

From my perspective, they all look the same. And the only way for this giant hottie to wake up is to receive a kiss from her true love. Me.

DWARF 2

Um… so you're going to kiss her without getting active consent?

NARRATOR 1

What are you doing?

DWARF 2

Just preparing my police report.

NARRATOR 1

Fine.

Narrator 1 raps on something.

HEY. GIANT HOTTIE. IS IT COOL IF I KISS YOU TO WAKE YOU UP FROM YOUR COMA?

Narrator 1 listens.

Then Narrator 1 makes a little Snow White voice and says

Sure dwarf 1 I would like that.

DWARF 2

That was you!

NARRATOR 1

Well how am I supposed to – ?

DWARF 2

What if you did an air hug from a six foot distance?

NARRATOR 1

Fine.

She backs up and air hugs Snow White. Snow White wakes up.

SNOW WHITE *(waking up)*

Ah!

DWARF 1

It was love at first sight.

SNOW WHITE

Oh you're not what I expected.

NARRATOR 1

I'm better, baby. I am the mighty dwarf Slappy and I have rescued you from the evil curse that was--

SNOW WHITE *(overlapping)*

I was just tired, I wasn't under a curse—

NARRATOR 1 *(overlapping)*

Forcing you to sleep for a hundred years. I am your true love.

Snow White raises her hand.

SNOW WHITE

Um.

DWARF 1

This is where you break into song.

SNOW WHITE

I don't know the words.

DWARF 1

That's okay—I wrote them down for you.
Dwarf 1 hands a sheet of paper to Snow White.
Snow White takes the sheet and looks at it.

SNOW WHITE

This says I cook dinner and clean the house and leave the thinking to my husband.

DWARF 1

It's a perfect marriage.

SNOW WHITE

This is disgusting! I'm a modern woman!

DWARF 1

Well you're not going to live happily ever after then!

SNOW WHITE

I'm going to tell the story my way!
She throws down the lyrics.
Dwarf 2 and WITCH 2 enter.

WITCH 2

Are y'all gonna need me any time soon?

SNOW WHITE

Yes. We are starting over right now. Once upon a time there was a beautiful girl.
The actors look around. Snow White points at Dwarf 2.
Witch 2 exits, annoyed.
You're going to be Snow White this time.
Author's note: Whatever the double-casting, it is imperative that DWARF 2 be played by a male-presenting actor.

DWARF 2

ABOUT DANG TIME! YES!

Dwarf 2 grabs a stash of clothing. He has ALL of the Snow White stuff. Dress – tiara – wig – gloves - roses. He talks while he's putting on the dress and everything.

I've just been waiting for my chance but I will ROCK THIS. Oh yeah. It's my time. It's all coming true just like I dreamed. You can do this, *<Dwarf 2's actor's real name>*.
Time for this diamond to shine.

Dwarf 2 prepares mentally, perhaps stretches, perhaps takes out a mirror to apply a beauty mark.

Showtime.

NARRATOR 1

All right then.

SNOW WHITE

She was the most beautiful girl in the entire kingdom.

Dwarf 2 struts up and down, as if he's on a runway.

DWARF 2

You know it!

SNOW WHITE

But her step-mother was jealous.

WITCH 2 returns as Dwarf 2 struts.

WITCH 2

Snow White.

DWARF 2

Stepmother.

WITCH 2

Is that a zit I see on your face?

DWARF 2

You'd like that, wouldn't you?

WITCH 2

I do believe you're skipping your exercise routine.

DWARF 2

Not on your life, sister. These curves are tight and streamlined like a racing yacht owned by a hip hop mogul.

WITCH 2

I think you might need to tweeze your eyebrows. They're looking… puffy.

DWARF 2

No, they are fierce like a chained tiger with ghost peppers stuffed up his –

SNOW WHITE *(cutting him off)*

Moving on. And the wicked stepmother went to her room and gazed into her magic mirror.

Dwarf 1 becomes the magic mirror.

WITCH 2

Mirror, mirror, on the wall. Who's the fairest of them all?

DWARF 1 *(as the mirror, a drawn-out ghostly voice)*

Well it's certainly not you.

WITCH 2

Curses!

DWARF 1 *(as the mirror)*

Hey that's a good idea. You should try that.

SNOW WHITE

Meanwhile, Snow White was only becoming more fierce.

Dwarf 2 continues to strut.

DWARF 2

Work it. Work it.

SNOW WHITE

And just then –

WITCH 2 faces DWARF 2.

It was her stepmother.

WITCH 2

Stepmother.

DWARF 2

Snow White.

They look confused. Snow White gestures that they have it reversed.

WITCH 2

Snow White.

DWARF 2

Stepmother.

WITCH 2

I'm afraid it's over for you, Snow White. For I have a lot of money and have been though a lot of plastic surgery in Hollywood. I have tucked, sucked, vacuumed and sanded every inch of my body with a diamond laser and I've had most of my tattoos lasered off. Now, I am more beautiful than even you.

DWARF 2

Unlikely. BEGIN.

Dwarf 1 starts some thrilling runway music.
Dwarf 2 and Witch 2 strut back and forth, throwing fierce looks at each other.
Narrator 1 becomes PRINCE 2 and enters. (Whoever plays Prince 2 should be female-presenting.)

PRINCE 2

Yaaas Queen! Slay!

DWARF 1

Enough!

They stop.

Snow White is still the fiercest.

WITCH 2

Dang it! Well, how about an apple as a peace offering?

DWARF 2

How bout I take you out with my martial arts skills?

WITCH 2

Oh it's on!

PRINCE 2

Not to interrupt but I was just in the neighborhood looking for a girl in a coma to make out with and—whoah! Chickfight!

Dwarf 2 and Witch 2 circle each other.

SNOW WHITE

And it was a glorious battle.

WITCH 2

Expelliarmus!

DWARF 2

Expelliarmus yourself!

They start slap-fighting.. It's ridiculous.

PRINCE 2

Go Snow White!

SNOW WHITE

A titanic struggle of good and evil. Purity versus corruption.

Dwarf 2 pokes Witch 2 in the eyes, 3 Stooges-style. Witch 2 throws stuff at Dwarf 2.

Until finally.

WITCH 2

I shall transform myself into a black dragon! Ah ha ha ha!

Pause.

SNOW WHITE

No that was in the Sleeping Beauty movie.

WITCH 2

I thought we were doing Sleeping Beauty.

SNOW WHITE

No this is Snow White.

Dwarf 2 takes a sword and stabs her.

DWARF 2

Eat this, witch!

WITCH 2

Ah! I'm melting! Actually I'm… bleeding! Aaaaaah.

Witch 2 dies.

PRINCE 2

That was so hot.

DWARF 2

Like somebody else I know, Prince.

PRINCE 2

You're very forward.

DWARF 2

I'm a modern woman. Come on, let's get married.

Dwarf 1 returns.

SNOW WHITE

And just then.

DWARF 1

Hi ho. Hi ho.

DWARF 2

What'd you just call me?

DWARF 1

Um. Nothing. Look, I'm living with a bunch of other dwarves—

DWARF 2

I've heard enough! You are lucky enough to become my servants. Come with me.

SNOW WHITE

And they all lived happily ever after and avoided traditional gender roles. And the seven little dwarves cooked for them, cleaned the house, and did all that other junk that Snow White was supposed to do in the story. The end.

Narrator 1 and Narrator 2 return.

NARRATOR 1

That was enlightened.

SNOW WHITE

Thank you.

She exits.

NARRATOR 2

And they had a son, Walt, who grew up to be a very handsome young man. Like most teenagers, however, he was rebellious and didn't like to chores. Which would have been fine, but unfortunately for the royal family, they had forgotten about the witch.

NARRATOR 1

Which witch?

NARRATOR 2

The witch which watched Walt's wish.

NARRATOR 1

What?

NARRATOR 2

Watch.

WALT enters.

WALT

It's tough being a prince. I wish I was something else, like a frog.

Witch 2 returns.

WITCH 2

Done.

WALT

Yay! I'm a talking frog!

Short pause.

Dang it.

Walt and Witch 2 exit.

NARRATOR 1

I thought she got stabbed to death.

NARRATOR 2

You only thought she got stabbed to death. In reality she escaped by sending her soul fifteen years into the future.

NARRATOR 1

I'm not sure this makes a whole lot of sense.

NARRATOR 2

Do you want to get through all of these or not? So Walt became a talking frog and moved to a nearby pond and remained there until he found a golden ball and was kissed by a princess.

NARRATOR 1

But the true secret origin here is of dwarf number 2.

NARRATOR 2

Which brings us to the darkest, most disturbing fairy tale ever told: Faithful Johannes.

JOHANNES enters. He's all smiles. Very, very happy.

NARRATOR 1

Never heard of it.

NARRATOR 2

There's a reason for that. Welcome to Faithful Johannes – the original psychological thriller.

Lights change on Johannes in a creepy fashion. Perhaps a red light? He's no longer all smiles. He looks terrified.

Narrator 1 changes into the QUEEN.

KING 2 enters.

Once upon a time there was a noble servant, Faithful Johannes, who served his king faithfully, as you might glean from his name.

KING 2

Hey everybody! Check out my servant, Faithful Johannes!

JOHANNES

You're too kind, your majesty.

KING 2

He's the best! All your other servants are GARBAGE. Faithful Johannes would do anything for me! Eat a bug. Do it.

JOHANNES

Of course, sire.

Johannes eats a bug and smiles afterwards.

KING 2

HE LOVES IT. All your other servants are LOSERS. Nobody like Faithful Johannes here! Slap yourself in the face for me.

Johannes slaps himself in the face. Smiles afterwards.

AMAZING. All right, I'm goin' to bed. In conclusion: Faithful Johannes is the best, and all other servants are STUPID.

King 2 exits.

NARRATOR 2

Johannes loved his life.

JOHANNES

This is great. Nothing like eating bugs and slapping myself in the face for my king.

He sighs and tries to keep it together.

NARRATOR 2

But one night he was visited…

RAVEN enters (or Narrator 2 transforms into Raven). Raven is dressed in a black trenchcoat or looks suitably sketchy.

By a talking raven.

RAVEN

Hey Pssst. Yo Johannes.

JOHANNES

Who's that?

RAVEN

C'mere. I got something to tell you.

JOHANNES

Are you a talking raven?

Skipping Forward

KING 2

Man. You got problems.

King 2 exits.

NARRATOR 2

Later that night.

Raven enters behind Johannes.

Johannes stands, shaking, eyes wide.

RAVEN

Psst. Yo Johannes. C'mere.

JOHANNES

Ah! Stay away from me! I can't do this!

RAVEN

Attempt number two is comin' tomorrow. At the King's wedding rehearsal.

JOHANNES

I don't want to hear it! Find another stoolie!

RAVEN

It's gotta be you, Johannes. The King's wedding shirt is cursed. If he puts it on, he'll burn to death.

JOHANNES

I don't believe you! That horse was innocent! And I killed her! I… killed… her…

RAVEN

All you need to do is stop the king from taking the shirt, and tear it up in front of him. That's all you gotta do. But remember – you don't say nothing to nobody, or I'll turn you to stone.

JOHANNES

How do I know you're telling the truth?!

RAVEN

You don't.

Raven chuckles.

Ca-CAW!

Johannes jumps.

KING 2 and QUEEN enter as the Raven flies off.

Johannes watches, freaking out, twitching.

QUEEN

Welcome friends. It's so nice to see all of you mostly recovered from the plague. And I'm here to tell you I love this big guy. Come here, ya big galoot. This is a day of celebration. Cause I love you, honey bear.

KING 2

I love you more, honey bear!

QUEEN

Even our nicknames are cute! This is the happiest day of my life! And – as a little present – I made you something.

She reaches down and takes out a t-shirt.

I sewed this myself! It's the only thing I've ever done myself. And I made it… for you.

KING 2

Oh it's –

Johannes lunges and snatches it out of the Queen's hand.

JOHANNES

AHHHHHHHHHHH!

He tries to rip it up, can't – grabs some scissors and tears holes in it. He throws it on the ground and stomps on it again and again.

I HATE THIS SHIRT! I HATE IT!

Pause. He stops. Everyone is looking at him.

KING 2

Um… WHAT. THE. HECK.

JOHANNES

It's not your color, sire. It is an affront against fashion.

Queen bursts into tears.

KING 2

Oh Honey Bear!

QUEEN

I'm never going to try again!

She sobs. Runs off.

KING 2

I gotta deal with this. Johannes? Not. Cool.

He follows her off.

NARRATOR 2

That night.

Johannes looks around, freaking out.

JOHANNES

I don't want to hear from any talking birds tonight!

Raven enters.

No! No! Get out!

RAVEN

Yo Johannes. You did good, kid.

JOHANNES

Everyone thinks I'm crazy! Maybe I am crazy. Maybe I'm just hearing a talking bird. Maybe this is all in my mind.

RAVEN

Tomorrow, the Queen is gonna die.

JOHANNES

Stop it!

RAVEN

She's gonna be poisoned. And the only way to stop it is for you… to suck three drops out of blood out of the queen's breast.

JOHANNES

WHA-A-A-A-T?

RAVEN

Upper chest region.

JOHANNES

STILL.

RAVEN

Fine. Don't do it. She'll die. No difference to me. Remember – don't tell nobody nothing.

JOHANNES

I'm not doing it! You can't make me!

RAVEN

Ca-CAW!

Raven flies off.

Johannes paces nervously.

King 2 and Queen enter. Both have glasses of wine.

QUEEN

Okay I had a rough night remembering that shirt, but I'm feeling a little better. Obviously, it was traumatic for everyone and I'm going to be okay with fifteen or twenty years of therapy. But today is not about the terrible trauma of yesterday, today is about putting a happy face on … and… and… urk…

She falls over.

(It's important she falls over behind something so that we can't see her body.)

KING 2

Oh no! Are you all right, Honey Bear? Say something! Is there a doctor in the house?

Johannes just stares.

Can anyone save the Queen's life? Anyone at all?

Johannes just stares.

Oh no this is terrible! Someone do something! If only someone could save her!

Johannes drops down where the Queen has fallen (so that the audience can't see him.)

King 2 watches in horror.

WHOAH. WHAT. THE. HECK.

Queen and Johannes get back up.

QUEEN

Thanks. I feel better.

KING 2

DUDE! JOHANNES. EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

JOHANNES

Um…

KING 2

THAT IS IT. You are sentenced to death for being a jerk! Where's my guillotine?

JOHANNES

Wait! I always served you faithfully, sire! But there was a talking raven who was threatening me and telling me – urk…

NARRATOR 2

And just then, Johannes turned into a statue. Because when a magic raven says stuff to you, you better listen.

NARRATOR 1

Okay, that was mildly traumatic but not super traumatic –

NARRATOR 2

Ten years passed. And every day the King would stare at the statue of Faithful Johannes and sigh…

QUEEN

Are you coming up to bed?

KING 2

Hold on. I'm gonna spend some more time with this statue. He was such a good servant.

QUEEN

All right I'm going to sleep.

King mimes stroking the statue.

KING 2

If only there was some way to bring you back. No one eats bugs or slaps themselves in the face for me any more.

NARRATOR 2

And just then a ghostly voice emanated from the statue…

JOHANNES

Ooooooohhhhh… there is one way…. To….. bring me back…..

KING 2

What is it?! I'll do anything!

JOHANNES

Take what you love most in the world…

KING 2

That would be my two boys. I love my two boys so much.

He holds up two puppets.

Daddy loves you.

(as the puppets)

`I love you, Papa.'

`You're the best, Daddy.'

JOHANNES

Chop off their heads and smear their blood on me…

KING 2

Done!

He rips off the puppets' heads – (or throws them down and stomps on them.)

Then pulls out two headless puppets with red on their necks and mimes smearing their blood on the statue.

JOHANNES

Ohhh. I feel so much better!

KING 2

You're alive! Air hug!

They air hug.
They dance and dance, high-five each other.
King and Johannes dance off, hand-in-hand.

NARRATOR 2

And the king and Johannes lived happily ever after. The end.

Narrator 1 enters, stunned.

NARRATOR 1

What did I just watch?

NARRATOR 2

That's the fairy tale. Right there.

NARRATOR 1

He kills his children to bring back his servant?

NARRATOR 2

A good servant is really hard to find. You can always make more kids. Okay fine – Johannes resurrects the kids later because he's got super-powers, and then one of those kids runs away from home, becomes a dwarf, and lives in the mines.

NARRATOR 1

Wow. That is messed-up.

NARRATOR 2

Yup.

NARRATOR 1

And speaking of messed up, we must now investigate the origin of that queen! Because long before she was the queen, she was a little girl named Little Red-Cap.

LITTLE RED enters.
NARRATOR 2 exits.

LITTLE RED

Little Red-Cap?

NARRATOR 1

Yeah, little Red-Cap.

LITTLE RED

Isn't it Little Red Riding Hood?

NARRATOR 1

Okay, first of all, you're not a hood just cause you wear red, all right? Not everyone who wears red is in a gang. And second, that's what it says here in the book, and we're going by the book, so you're Red-Cap.

LITTLE RED

Fine. Jerk.

NARRATOR 1

What?

LITTLE RED

I didn't say anything.

NARRATOR 1

So, Little Red-Cap—

LITTLE RED

Well I'm off to my Grandmother's house to give her these sweets I made.

NARRATOR 1

You see, Little Red's Grandmother was super passive aggressive.

GRANDMA (possibly played by Narrator 2) enters.

GRANDMA

Oh Little Red, Little Red. Grandma needs some sweets. I guess you're busy. I don't want to bother you. You don't need to talk to me. I'll just stay here, alone, in my house, where I'm dying of hunger. Don't want to bother anyone. If only someone loved me. I'm dying. Ack.

Grandma exits sadly.

LITTLE RED

Boy Grandma really knows how to turn on the guilt. I guess I'll just have to go into the dark and scary woods alone. Although that doesn't sound like a very good idea.

NARRATOR 1

The woods alone? You know what that means.

She points at the audience. (assume they don't remember what to do)

What you forgot Act One? We went through a whole thing in Act One and y'all can't remember it? Was it too difficult? Were there too many instructions? Yes we're bringing it back! So when I point to you, cast your memory back to about forty-five minutes ago and know your role!

She points again.

AUDIENCE

Don't go in there!

NARRATOR 1

Thank you.

LITTLE RED

I guess I'll go in the woods.
Narrator 1 points again.

AUDIENCE

Don't go in there!

LITTLE RED

La la la –
Narrator 1 points to the audience again.

AUDIENCE

Ch-ch-ch-ch. A-a-a-a-a. Ch-ch-ch-ch. A-a-a-a-a.
The WOLF enters, sneakily.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

AW NO IT'S A WOLF!

LITTLE RED

La la la –
Narrator 1 points at the audience.

AUDIENCE *(heavy breathing)*
The Wolf acts like he's sneaking up behind her.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

QUIT SINGING AND TURN YOUR HEAD! THERE IS A WOLF! BEHIND YOU!

LITTLE RED

It's so dark here. If only I could see what was going on.
The Wolf gets very close to her. He's about to pounce.
Little Red turns around – then kicks suddenly backward.
The Wolf lurches back like he's been hit in the groin.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

YESSSSS!

THE WOLF

Ohhhh.
Little Red takes a baton or stick out of her basket and beats him.

Ow. Ow. Ow! Owwwww!

She takes a can of mace out of her basket.

Nooooo!

Audience Member cheers her on during this.

…help… me.

LITTLE RED

Give me your money!

THE WOLF

I'm… a wolf… I don't have money.

NARRATOR 1

You see, Little Red-Cap was raised in the hood, which is where she gets her other name. And it was a tough hood. A very tough hood.

LITTLE RED

You got dirt on my shoe!

THE WOLF

No I didn't!

LITTLE RED

Yes you did you -

<Bleep Bleep Bleep>

Sheep.

THE WOLF

Please don't kill me.

LITTLE RED

You're not worth it.

The Wolf whimpers.

Tra la la.

Little Red skips off.

NARRATOR 1

Meanwhile, at Grandmother's house.

Grandma enters, on the phone.

GRANDMA

Yes, Home Shopping Network? I'd love to order the doilies please. Make them extra frilly. Hello? Hello? Huh. Someone cut the phone line.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Oh dang it. Aw no.

The Wolf sneaks towards Grandma.

There's a wolf! There's a wolf IN THE HOUSE. I REPEAT: THE WOLF IS IN THE HOUSE! ABORT MISSION! THE WOLF IS IN THE HOUSE!

GRANDMA

Is someone there?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

YES! IT'S A WOLF! I JUST SAID THAT!

THE WOLF

Rarrr! Die die die!

The Wolf attacks Grandma.

Grandma takes out a bowling pin, or sword, or lightsaber, and fights back. She knocks the wolf over. She punches him again and again, maybe does some pro-wrestling moves.

GRANDMA

Spawn of Satan I will destroy you!

NARRATOR 1

And the wolf ate her.

Grandma looks down at the Wolf.

GRANDMA

No he didn't.

NARRATOR

No the wolf ate her.

GRANDMA

Fine.

She exits.

NARRATOR 1

And because this wolf had impeccable fashion sense, he put on Grandma's clothes.

The Wolf woozily gets to his feet and puts on a similar dress to Grandma, with a wig.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

This is kinda messed up right here.

NARRATOR 1

And he lay in wait for Little Red.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Uh-oh.

Little Red enters, calling off-stage.

LITTLE RED

That's right you better keep on walking!

She turns, happily.

Tra la la. Now to deliver these sweets to Grandma's house to get her off my back.

She knocks, cautiously.

Grandma?

THE WOLF

Come closer so Grandma can see you.

Narrator 1 points to the audience.

AUDIENCE

Don't go in there!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Uh oh. Don't go in there. That ain't your Grandma.

LITTLE RED

I brought the sweets you ordered. Low-Fat, just like you said. Say, you look a little weird.

THE WOLF

Most old people look weird. Please come closer.

AUDIENCE

Don't go in there!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Don't do it!

LITTLE RED

Why is there blood all over the floor?

THE WOLF

Grandma had an accident with a chainsaw. Please come closer.

Narrator 1 points again.

AUDIENCE

Don't go in there!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

WHY AREN'T YOU LISTENING TO THESE FINE PEOPLE?!

LITTLE RED

Why do you have a big wolf-like snout with jagged sharp teeth and beady red eyes? Why am I so stupid I can't figure this out?

THE WOLF

All the better to eat you with!

Little Red pulls out her baton, but this time the Wolf is waiting for her.
He takes out his own baton, they swordfight for a moment.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

OH NO! HE'S LEARNING JUST LIKE THE TERMINATOR!

NARRATOR 1

And the wolf ate her.

Little Red falls down.
Audience Member can't watch.

THE WOLF

Mmm… Tasty. Well, there goes my diet. Grandma was a little stringy. If only I had a house made out of candy I could fatten her up first but—uh-oh…

NARRATOR 1

And just then there happened to be a woodcutter passing through—

Audience Member transforms into a WOODCUTTER by putting on a fake beard, and leaps out of the audience.

WOODCUTTER

I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU LITTLE RED!

THE WOLF

A woodcutter!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL PLAY FOR THIS!

The Woodcutter hits the Wolf with an axe.

THE WOLF

Ack!

NARRATOR 1

And the Woodcutter knocked the wolf unconscious.

Wolf falls down.

WOODCUTTER

Well, let me just slice open his stomach like I do to every wolf I knock out. What the heck is this?!!

Little Red emerges.

LITTLE RED

What's up?

WOODCUTTER

What a sweet little girl!

Grandma enters.

GRANDMA

Phew! It was dark in there.

WOODCUTTER

Well, what are we gonna do with this wolf?

LITTLE RED

I've got an idea! We stuff the wolf's belly with rocks and then sew him back up. Then when he wakes up, he'll feel really full, and when he tries to drink out of the river, we can push him in! The weight of the stones will force him to the bottom, so he'll drown, and the last thing he'll see is my face. And then he shall know that my revenge is complete.

Pause.

WOODCUTTER

Um…

He walks off-stage slowly.

NARRATOR 1

Yeah Little Red was dark as heck.

Narrator 2 re-enters.

NARRATOR 2

So that's exactly what they did. Seriously, that is the original ending of Little Red Riding Hood.

NARRATOR 1

Dark.

NARRATOR 2

And then years later she would marry the King and be poisoned on her wedding night.

NARRATOR 1

So to Re-cap: Once upon a time there was a little girl from the hood who got eaten by a wolf, killed him in a disturbing way, married a King, who beheaded his son, who was then resurrected, but he became a dwarf

NARRATOR 2

Little person -

NARRATOR 1

Who met up with another little person

NARRATOR 2

Dwarf

NARRATOR 1

Who rescued a girl from a witch who married a prince and had a son who was cursed by that same wish into becoming a frog, who was friends with a talking fish, who was caught by a fishergirl who became a different witch who got killed trying to eat two little children, one of whom grew up to have a daughter who made a series of unfortunate deals with a trio of supernatural beings who had another daughter Rapunzel, who was taken by an Enchantress and locked in a tower until she was rescued by another prince. And there were no crab people.

NARRATOR 2

Yeah I think that's pretty much it.

NARRATOR 1

Is that all 209?

NARRATOR 2

Uh… it's *some* of them. We've done the important ones.

CINDERELLA enters.

CINDERELLA

Ahem.

NARRATOR 2

What?

CINDERELLA

Aren't you forgetting something?

NARRATOR 1

Don't think so.

NARRATOR 2

I mean, there's a whole bunch of stories about foxes, but who wants to hear those?

NARRATOR 1

I hate foxes.

NARRATOR 2

And some other talking animals and some giants and a whole bunch with random peasants cheating the Devil out of things, but—Oh.

CINDERELLA

Yeah.

NARRATOR 1

Once upon a time—

CINDERELLA

Thank you.

She does some deep breathing exercises.

NARRATOR 2

There was a little orphan girl.

Cinderella overacts.

CINDERELLA

Oh I am orphaned! Oh I am sad!

ACTOR enters as Cinderella whimpers piteously.

ACTOR

Can we pause here for a second?

CINDERELLA

Oh how sad I am!

ACTOR

Just hold on.

NARRATOR 1

What is it?

ACTOR

There was like some really bad beef in the catering

CINDERELLA

Oh the catering is bad!

ACTOR

So like everybody is throwing up back here.

NARRATOR 1

Excuse me.

Narrator 1 runs off.

ACTOR

We don't have enough actors left to do this one.

Cinderella stops acting.

CINDERELLA

What?

NARRATOR 2

Well I guess we can skip it then.

CINDERELLA

NO WE ARE NOT SKIPPING IT.

End of Excerpt.
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