

The Wicked Witch of the Wild West

A Christmas Panto

By

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The Story

Once upon a very long time ago, when where we live now was the bottom of a big ocean, right in the middle there was a magical island. On it lived a grouchy old man by the name of Dr. Klaus. He lived in a big, old ramshackle house in the middle of this island called Woodlands, which of course had a lot of trees. Dr. Klaus was over sixty years old and was looked after by his servant Rudie who although he was a faithful servant, he was not efficient. Sad to say he was, what an unkind person might describe as, simply dirty. He did not like cleaning. He hated cooking. He loathed the washing up and he particularly detested chopping logs for the fire. The only thing he did like was eating and drinking. Actually he liked drinking more than eating. He would spend long hours brewing up his own special drink in the back yard. It was aptly named "Rudie's Special" and only he could drink it because if you or I took even a sip of it, we would feel so funny that we wouldn't be able to stand up straight. Rudie had been drinking it for so long, he had grown used to its effects and the only problem he had was his nose, which over the years instead of being red had begun glowing bright blue whenever he drank his special brew.

On another part of the island where giant waves crashed against granite shores was the famous Castle of Montezuma, the family seat of Morticia, the great witch of the Arizona Seas. From its high turrets she could gaze out over Woodlands and the surrounding seas happy that nothing happened without her knowing it and that everyone on the island knew she was in control. The elves of the forest feared her and were always very polite to her. The people in the little villages along the shore did exactly as she commanded. Even the trees whispered her name (or at least that's what people thought they whispered.) Some said she was a very bad witch who wove wicked spells that made people different from who they really were. She was exactly the opposite of her twin sister, the Widow von Mouse who was also a witch but who ran a not so successful spell shop in the village. Although a happy woman, the Widow mourned the loss of her husband and children who had disappeared mysteriously many years ago.

On the day in question, the seas were extremely rough. The villagers went about their fishing and daily tasks glancing up at the dark clouds blocking the sun. The elves of the forest hid in the trees or in holes in the sides of banks. On the north side of the island, beyond the horizon, a great storm was brewing and the leaves in the forest of Woodlands rustled nervously.

CAST

RUDIE	- Dr Klaus' faithful servant.
DR. KLAUS	- A grouchy old man with a white beard and a pot belly.
MIRANDA	-a young, beautiful fifteen year old girl.
MORTICIA	- The Witch of the Arizona Seas and twin sister of Widow von Mouse.
FRANKIE	-The manufactured son of Morticia.
WIDOW VON MOUSE	-Morticia's twin sister, The Dame, a good witch
ELFIN KING	- Lord of the Forest and all the Wild Places
ELVES/SAILORS	- Double as villagers, elves or sailors
SHIP'S CAPTAIN	-Doubles as Elfin King.
PIGS	-Children turned into pigs by Morticia
TOYS	-Broken clowns, ballerinas, mice, jack in the boxes, etc.
DARK THINGS	- creatures of the night in fluorescent costumes - moths/beatles/animals/fireflies/skeletons.
MR. & MRS.ADAMS	- Miranda's parents
BLITZER	-Upper class servant to the Widow.

SCENE 1

The storm. SFX. Christmas Eve. Late evening. Ship's wheel centre stage. Mast two feet forward with ropes and sails. Two sailors at the wheel. Small quarter deck. Captain searches horizon with telescope. First Lieutenant looking upwards. Light fading. Clouds moving across back. All four mime the swell. The mast moves. Sound of storm.

LIEUTENANT

Wind's fresh'ng Captain.

CAPTAIN

Aye, There's a storm coming. Out of nowhere.

(SFX Sound of thunder in the distance)

We'll not out run this one.

LIEUTENANT

Aye, Captain. I'll be gettin' the passengers to safety below deck.

CAPTAIN

Do that Number 1. Get the sails rigged. There's too much canvas. Clear the decks. We'll be over if the storm hits us amidships.

(Enter Mr and Mrs Adams)

MRS. ADAMS

I think I'm going to be sick Charles.

MR. ADAMS

You'll be all right my dear..... a bit of fresh air.

CAPTAIN

Best you be getting below Mr. and Mrs. Adams.

MR. ADAMS

My wife is a bit sick. She's not used to sailing.

(Enter Miranda)

MIRANDA

Mummy, Daddy... I've wrapped all the presents... and this one is for you.

(She holds a large, beautifully wrapped present)

MRS. ADAMS

Later my dear. Mummy's not feeling well.

(Re-enter Lieutenant and shouts to sailor)

LIEUTENANT

Get up aloft.... Rig that sail... make fast...

(Notices Mr and Mrs Adams)

You must get below Mr. & Mrs. Adams.... And you Miss Adams.. There's a mighty storm brewing.

MIRANDA

Lieutenant! Do you like my wrapping? It's my Christmas present for mummy and daddy.... It took me three hours.

MRS.ADAMS

George I'm going to be sick.

(SFX gale, lightning, thunder)

CAPTAIN

Forty degrees north. Turn her into the wind lads.

SAILOR

Aye Aye Captain.

(They both struggle to turn the wheel. Actors mime keeping their feet . The mast shifts. Lights dim as storm rages. Cries from off stage.)

MR.ADAMS

Miranda. We must get below. Come my dear. Let's go below....Miranda.... Come on..

MRS.ADAMS

Oh Charles I feel so ill.

MIRANDA

But my Christmas present.....

(Suddenly the wind howls and the present as if on a string...which it is...goes out of her hand, hovers in the air lit by a follow spot and then flies off out of her reach... she follows after it with outstretched hands and with a cry falls off the side of the stage in pursuit of the present.)

MIRANDA

Ahhh... Mummy.....!

MRS.ADAMS

Miranda!

CAPTAIN

Get those people below Lieutenant. Hold her on course lads.

MR.ADAMS

My daughter... she's fallen overboard,,,

MRS.ADAMS

(Crying)

Miranda!

LIEUTENANT

Captain... passenger overboard...

CAPTAIN

We can't come about. This storm will...

(There's a terrible SFX cracking sound. The mast falls to an angle. There are screams.)

CAPTAIN

We've hit a reef..... Abandon ship.... We're going to sink. Man the lifeboats Lieutenant.

MR.ADAMS

Miranda!

(Storm rises to a crescendo. Ship goes down. SFX Glug.Gulg!)

SCENE 2

The house of Doctor Von Klaus at the edge of the forest of Woodlands. It is old and broken down. There is a sign next to the door CS with his name on it. Trees overhang the roof. SL a small garden with extra large toadstools. SR tree stumps and a sign pointing to Woodlands one way and The Town the other. Music of a flute playing the tune of "Once upon a time there was Christmas.. In a time when the earth was young..." from backstage sounds of a quarrel.

DR. VON KLAUS

You are und good for nuzing layabout!

RUDIE

What do you mean? I've done all me work.

VON KLAUS

Do not argue wiz me. If I say you are und a good for nuzing layabout... zat's what you are.. Now get out ov zis house. You're fired. Kaput.

RUDIE

(Coming through the door. He is slightly built with a red nose and shoddy clothes, stiff collar, bow tie... there's an air of faded clown about him.)

I don't want to stay with a crotchety, bad-tempered old man like you

DR. VON KLAUS

(Appearing at the door. He is fat but shoddily dressed with braces and a large grey/white beard)

Zen, get out and good riddance... and don't ever come back again..

(Slams the door)

RUDIE

(Knocking at the door)

What about my wages?

DR. VON KLAUS

(Suddenly opens the door.)

How can I pay you for what you never do?

(He throws out case with Rudie's clothes and belongings)

Here take your rubbish wiz you.

(Slams the door again.)

RUDIE

(Sarcastically .)

Thank you very much. For nothing!

(He starts to pick up his things and packs them in his case.)

A nice goodbye.

(He addresses the door)

I don't want your stupid job. I'll manage on my own.

Enter Widow von Maus with basket , her purse and very long shopping list.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I've got a shopping list as long as a pieman's nose.

(Notices Rudie)

Oh dear me! Has he thrown you out again? ..He doesn't get any better despite the therapy. He must be BTD...

RUDIE

BTD?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Bad Temper Disorder. It's very common - especially when everything's going from bad to worst...

(Notices the children in the audience)

Oh hello children. I didn't see you all there. I've got to go to town to do some shopping. Are you all right? Are you having a good time? No? I don't think anyone is. What with the recession going on and on. We had a terrible storm last night. It blew all my knickers off the clothes line. I've only got one pair left. Have you got your knickers on? Well keep them on.

Especially you big children. It was such a terrible storm. I was frightened to death. Here, Rudie let me give you a hand.. What did you think of the storm?

RUDIE

I don't care. I'm finished. No job, nowhere to go. I'm going to kill myself. All my clothes have got holes. Look at my underwear.

(Pushes fingers through holes)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Do I have to.

RUDIE

Nothing but holes.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Well you're very lucky to have underwear at all. Some people are so poor they don't have any.

RUDIE

Nobody likes me. I've been thrown out of the house. I don't have any money. Nobody loves me. Everyone's mad at me.

(He cries in an exaggerated way. Small plastic pipes under his eyes spurt water out. He has a plastic pump in his pocket)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

There there Rudie, don't cry. Don't get upset... you'll make me cry...

(She starts crying and wipes her nose on his underwear)

Urgghhhh.

(Drops underwear or gives it to someone in the audience)

Tell Widow von Maus all about it. Get it off your chest.

RUDIE

SONG:

Nobody likes me
I'm a stranger in me 'ome
They've thrown me out of doors
And now I'm all alone.

I know that I'm untidy
 And I sometimes make a mess
 But really I'm a nice man.
 Is that so hard to guess?

But when I'm very miserable
 And feeling very sad
 I make a little mixture
 That helps to make me glad.

I call it Rudie's Tonic.
 It comes in fiery blue.
 I put it in a bottle
 And it helps to get me through

The good times and the bad times
 And the times when I feel blue
 And if you're really nice to me
 I'll share some of it with you.

(Gives some to the Widow who tastes it and spits it out)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Ooooooooooooo..... it's a bit strong.....

(She jumps up)

It's got my knickers all in a twist...how embarrassing. Dear me. Rudie you can come and stay in my spell shop for a while.

(to the audience)

RUDIE

Spell shop?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You didn't know I had a spell shop, did you?.Dan Quayle , the ex-Vice President came into my shop. He asked. How do I spell potato? Not that sort of spell silly boy, I said to him. I sell magic spells... making people into toads or making them choke on pretzels... that sort of thing.

(to the audience)

Would you like to come into my spell shop. You all want to come? That's wonderful. I had Harry Potter and his friends in the shop just last week. Poor boy didn't know what he was doing. I sold him a bunch of stuff...all right then ... let's go?

(Door opens and a case of bottles is thrown out)

DR.VAN KLAUS

And take your filthy brew wiz you.

(Slams the door.)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Well, that's not very nice is it?

(There's a sound of humming... it sounds like the slaves' chorus from Verdi's Nabucco)

What's that?

RUDIE

It's called Rudie's Tonic.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

No, not that...that!

(They listen as humming grows in volume)

RUDIE

It's the elves.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

The elves?

RUDIE

Yeah..... From Woodlands

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

What do they want?

RUDIE

They're singing.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

It's getting louder.

RUDIE

Perhaps they're coming this way.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

But they're not supposed to come out of the woods.

RUDIE

That's because they know they're safe there.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

My sister Morticia won't like this.

RUDIE

She doesn't like anything. She doesn't even like herself.... HA! HA! HA!

(the tonic is having its effect)

That's a joke....

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

They're definitely coming this way. I don't like elves.

(Turns to the audience)

Do you like elves? We'll just pretend that everything is normal.

(sits down on a toadstool)

Terrible weather we're having for this time of year...

(the humming increases)

Enter the elves, preceded by one of the high elves carrying a bier on which is the body of Miranda. The elves are dressed in rough tunics and have a range of different beards. Some carry long spears and swords. They look around warily.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(loudly)

So I was telling my sister Morticia ...

(more loudly) My sister Morticia

HIGH ELF

Silence.

RUDIE

I never said a word.

HIGH ELF

Elves.

(Points to two elves to guard Rudie.)

Hold your tongue.

(Rudie tries to hold his tongue physically)

RUDIE

Like thissss. Would you like thom of my thonic?

HIGH ELF

No. Put it away.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

My sister Morticia.....

(Elves are startled and look to High Elf)

HIGH ELF

We know all about your sister Morticia. We have come from Woodlands not to see her but to bring you one of your kind..

(points to the body)

Our people found her by the shore.....

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

She is not one of ours.. Oh no... that's a human being... not one of us... she must be a democrat.

HIGH ELF

We have carried her here. Our magic will not bring her back to life so we have brought her to your doctor.

RUDIE

Dr Klaus?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Oh dear. Look at the poor girl. Isn't she pretty? Actually you've been very thoughtful. I always believed elves weren't very nice.

(The elves stiffen and those with spears move towards the Widow)

But I see I was mistaken..... I'll see if I can get the Doctor for you..

(She goes to the door and starts knocking)

RUDIE

(Still holding his tongue)

Wath are you helping her for? Why do'nth you help me?

HIGH ELF

We would have left the girl but the voice of the forest whispered that we should try to help her.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Dr. Van Klaus... are you there?

(to the audience)

Children you are going to have to help me. The Doctor is terribly deaf. You'll have to shout. All together. One, two, three. DR. VAN KLAUS. That wasn't very good. Much, much louder. That's better. Etc.....

RUDIE

He won't help . He's got BTD and HHD.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

HHD?

RUDIE

Hard of Hearing Disorder.

DR.VAN KLAUS

(Appearing at window)

Vot iz all zis racket. Can't you let an old man sleep?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

There you are. Well done children.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Go home you zilly old voman. Vot are you elves doing here? Get back to ze forest.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You don't understand. They've found this young girl.

DR.VAN KLAUS

I don't care. Go away.

(slams window shut)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You're being horrible.

HIGH ELF

If the girl does not get help, she will die.

RUDIE

(Stops holding his tongue)

She can have some of my tonic.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

She'll probably die even faster. We'll try again. I'll do my dramatic bit.

(She knocks loudly again.)

Come on children. Louder.

(Eventually Dr Van Klaus comes to the door)

DR.VAN KLAUS

Vot is it now?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(Very dramatically on her knees)

Doctor, Doctor.... This poor young girl is dying... help her please , please

(Beckons audience to repeat Please often and loudly)

DR.VAN KLAUS

(Walk around body. Looks at her and feels her pulse.)

Humph.....

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

All the children out there want you to save her. Don't you? Children?

AUDIENCE

Yes.

DR.VAN KLAUS

All right... bring her in. I'll see vot I can do. She looks pretty dead to me already.

RUDIE

Well, would you believe it?

Elves gather body and take it into Dr Klaus' house.

He's actually helping someone. Perhaps he has forgotten he threw me out of the house. Do you think I should go back in? Well I think I will. You've all been very nice. Would you like some of my tonic? I don't mind if you don't because then there's more for me. It'll turn your nose a beautiful color... all red... just like mine. Try it.

(He mimes red noses onto some of the children in the audience)

Look at that. Beautiful red noses. Some people call me Rudie the Red Nosed. What's your name. Amanda? You can be Amanda the Red nosed...

(He gives out red noses)

I'm going back in. Better see how that young girl is getting on . See you later.... Bye bye.

Exit into the Doctor's

SCENE 3

There is a rumbling sound. Lights dim. Spotlight on one of the large toadstools which has been placed over the trap in the stage. Smoke pours from the base. Morticia explodes out of the toadstool with a cauldron behind her and a reading stand which holds an impressively leather bound book encrusted with jewels and looking very old. Smoke issues from the cauldron which projects an eerie red glow. Morticia stands tall behind her cauldron. She is beautiful, has long black hair and wears a long silken dress. She also has a wonderful laugh which is neither evil or gloating but full of fun and mischief.

MORTICIA

(Laughs)

Ha! Ha! Ha!. What an entrance! Those foolish people. They really just don't know! Now where am I?

(Looks around at the audience)

Dear me. Who are you? I don't think this is the right place. Hello! Can you speak. What's the matter? Cat got your tongue? Don't you dare boo me or I'll turn you into something horrible. That's better. Have you seen my beautiful book? It's The Great Book of Spells. I'm in the middle of one at the moment... let me see..

(Puts on her glasses and checks the book.)

Oh yes... bat's blood..

(Gets phial from her cleavage and throws content into cauldron. Light flashes and a cloud smoke issues.)

Wonderful. That'll teach them! Yesterday I did a storm spell from the book. You know... thunder and lightning, forty foot waves. I sank this silly ship. You should have seen it. They all drowned, glug, glug, glug down to Davey Jones Locker. I was so proud of myself.....

(A burst of smoke from the cauldron)

What next?

(checks book)

Ah.. I need a baby's toe. Any spare babies' toes out there? Oh come on! This is a really good spell. You don't want me to get nasty do you? There must be the odd unwanted baby toe out there.

(Turns nasty)

If I don't get your full co-operation I can do horrible things to you. How about reporting you to the IRS? Thought that would change your mind. It didn't? Well, maybe I can find an alternative. Let's look in the book. Ah.. If there's no baby's toe, use President Trump's toenail clippings. Luckily I've just bought some of those on Ebay.

(Brings out envelope)

There we are.

(Adds them to cauldron. Sparks and smoke and flashing)

A bit strong. Looks good. One sip of this and

(She picks up a ladle and fishes out a horrible looking liquid from the cauldron)

Would you like to try it? It's a flying spell. One sip of it and you'll fly all over the place. You don't believe me?

(She downs it in one. There's a bang, flash, crash and suddenly Morticia flies through the air, laughing.)

So long suckers. Ha! Ha! Ha!

(Cauldron disappears.)

SCENE 4

The inside of the house of Dr. Van Klaus. It is an old toy workshop. There are cobwebs, old tools, pieces of wood, pots of glue and paint, materials, an old broken drum, a broken rag doll, puppets, a Christmas fairy whose dress is torn and stained, shelves of broken and half-finished toys. On the work table CS there are scraps of a half-eaten meal. It is dark and dingy. As the lights come up it is quiet. Suddenly something falls to the ground with a large clatter and rolls towards the audience. A clock chimes. The sound of a creaking wheel like an old gramophone starts up. A puppet's broken hand starts striking a drum and other toys start coming to life. A music box starts playing and they all start twitching to the music in a strange half-automatic way as if they have forgotten how to move. They dance a strange lifeless dance.

There's the noise of voices outside the door.

(Off-stage)

DR. VAN KLAUS

Bring her in here. Zer'z more room.

RUDIE

Careful.

Enter Dr. Van Klaus, the dwarves carrying Miranda followed by Rudie.

DR. VAN KLAUS

I can't zink why I am doing zis. Look at ze mess in here. Rudie, come here. Look at zis mess.

(Takes him by the ear)

I told you to clear up zis place. Look at zis old food on ze table. No wonder we have ze rats.

RUDIE

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

(He repeats this as fast as he can as he sweeps the rubbish on the table onto the floor.)

DR.VAN KLAUS

I should think so. Now put her on the table. Zat's it.

(Elves place body on the table. The audience should be aware that the eyes of the dolls etc.. Follow everything.)

Enter Widow Van Mouse

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

There you all are. I couldn't find the ... you know. I got lost. Had to sort my knickers out. Bit of a twist. What a horrible place.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Rudie. Go into the kitchen and bring some water and a blanket and some warm clothes from upstairs.

RUDIE

Right... upstairs, kitchen, warm clothes... drink of water.. Yes.

(He has difficulty deciding which way to go but finally manages it.)

DR.VAN KLAUS

Get on with it.

Exit Rudie

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

This place is dirty and run down. Look at those horrible old toys.

(A toy comes to life behind her and pinches her,)

Ouch! How dare you!

(She hits Dr.Van Klaus with her handbag.)

DR.VAN KLAUS

Ouch. Vot did you did you do zat for?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

For pinching my bottom you naughty boy.

DR.VAN KLAUS

I did not pinch your bottomz.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Oh yes you did.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Oh no I didn't.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Children.... Didn't he pinch my bottomz.. I mean my bottom.

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

No he did not.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

There you are....!! What? Oh yes he did.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Oh no I didn't .

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

Oh no he didn't.

(Up to Widow how long this goes on.)

DR.VAN KLAUS

Stop this foolishness. Stop worrying about your bottomz and help me find ze cure for zis girl. Here look through zis book. We want waking up medicine.

(Re-enter Rudie)

RUDIE

I've got some water, some kitchen from the blanket, and an upstairs from the clothes.....Oh and I found this old bottle of medicine. It was on the stairs. Strange I never saw it there before.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Give it here.

(Peers at label)

Magic Potion No 23.

(Checks the book)

Yah yah zat should do ze trick. It's a powerful resuscitator.

(Reads)

“Will bring anything back to life. Not recommended for members of the Republican party or potential democratic candidates.” That should work. But only a little bit.

(They raise her head and administer a sip.)

RUDIE

The color is coming back in her cheeks.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

She's breathing.

MIRANDA

My present....my present...I must get...

(She relapses)

RUDIE

Give her some more.

DR.VAN KLAUS

It's too dangerous.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Children. Should we give her some more?

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

Yes.

DR.VAN KLAUS

All right. But a small amount.

(He administers a small sip. Miranda coughs and stirs.)

MIRANDA

Christmas.... Christmas.... My Christmas present....

(The words Christmas and Present act like magic on the elves. They repeat the words among themselves and repeat to each other in an excited way)

ELVES

Christmas... I seem to know what that is. Do you remember? Do you know what it is? Yes? No? My mother whispered it to me once. I can't remember. What is a present? Have you ever had one? Do you remember? No. Yes?

*The broken toys all become agitated and start to move.
The drum beats. The clock strikes.*

MIRANDA

(Frightened)

Where am I? Mummy, Daddy! Where are you?

DR.VAN KLAUS

Don't be frightened. I am und doctor. At least I zink I am und doctor.. I can't remember. You are wiz friends. We will not harm you.

MIRANDA

But my parents, where are my parents?

DR.VAN KLAUS

We don't know. Ze elves found you by ze seashore.

MIRANDA

The elves?

HIGH ELF

Yes. After the storm. Our magic was not strong enough to wake you so we brought you here.

ELF 1

(Interrupting)

Ask her about Christmas. Go on.

ELVES

Yes. Ask her. What does she mean? What did she mean by a Christmas present.

HIGH ELF

Don't be so rude.

MIRANDA

(Crying)

Where am I?

RUDIE

You're safe. You're in Woodlands and these are the Elves who rescued you. The children here will look after you.

MIRANDA

Oh thank you. Thank you.

ELVES

Ask her about the Christmas present. That's important.

MIRANDA

I was wrapping a Christmas present for my parents and....the...

HIGH ELF

(Embarrassed)

I am sorry if we frightened you. I am Gorbodoc, High Elf of Woodlands. Yesterday, after the great storm we found you on the beach and the forest whispered to us that we should help you. There is a legend in Woodlands... a story handed down from a time when the Elves were masters of the world that one day Christmas would return and we would be free to leave the forest, a time when even the dark things of the forest would return to the light.

ELF 1

Ask her about presents.

HIGH ELF

I cannot. It is not allowed.

MIRANDA

I don't understand...

ELF 1

Sing her the song.

HIGH ELF

No!

ELF 1

We WILL sing her the song.

(To Miranda)

It is a song we learned at our mother's knee.

HIGH ELF

You know it is forbidden.

ELF 1

The forest has spoken. We must sing it.

SONG:

Elves:

Once upon a time there was Christmas
 In a time when the earth was young.
 Once upon a time there was Christmas
 When the children all had fun.

But now the bells are silent
 The stars don't shine so bright.
 The trees no longer sparkle
 With a thousand twinkling lights.

(Miranda picks up the tune)

Miranda:

It is Christmas
 When children's voices fill the air
 And love and laughter's everywhere.
 It is Christmas.
 A special time for special things.
 Just think of all the joy it brings.

Christmas is....
 Christmas is
 A sky full of snowflakes drifting slowly down
 Dressing up the world in a new white gown.
 Yes, Christmas is the little things
 Like rolling snowballs down a hill
 Or a robin who comes pecking on your windowsill.

Elves:

But we don't remember Christmas
Though we really wish we could.
It must have been a time
When all the world was good.

Etc.....

MIRANDA

Surely you have Christmas?

ELF 1

For as long as we remember, there has been no Christmas.

MIRANDA

No toys? No presents? No trees? No Santa Klaus.

RUDIE

(Exaggerating boo-hooing)

I've never had a Christmas. I've never had a present.

MIRANDA

I'm so sorry.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(Joining in the general crying)

I don't think I've never had Christmas either.....

DR.VAN KLAUS

(His mood has changed dramatically during the crying)

Be quiet. What is all zis nonsense? What iz zis Christmas?

MIRANDA

It's a time to celebrate.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Celebrate?

MIRANDA

Yes... celebrate.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Zis is nonsense. I am not celebrating.

MIRANDA

But....

DR.VAN KLAUS

I have never heard so much nonsense. You come in here wiz your sickness. I help you... you mess up my living room.

MIRANDA

I love Christmas.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Don't argue wiz me. Please all of you... get out of my house. Rudie get these people out of my house. I am going to bed. Leave an old man in peace.

MIRANDA

I have nowhere to go.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Zen you must go nowhere.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Didn't I tell you? He's got BTM, Bad Temper Disorder.

MIRANDA

He is an unhappy man.

RUDIE

He's been like that for years. Not nice to know and he's got HHD.

MIRANDA

What's that?

RUDIE

Hard of hearing disorder.

HIGH ELF

Elves. We must return to Woodlands. It is not safe here.

MIRANDA

Thank you for rescuing me. Oh, what shall I do? Where can I go?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Don't you worry your little head about that. Ignore all that nonsense about Christmas and come along with me.

(Whispers)

These elves are not very nice you know.

(Loudly)

I'll take you to see my sister Morticia.

(At the mention of her name the Elves turn and stare at the Widow and utter a long growl, brandishing their spears)

ELVES

Grrrrrrrrr.....

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I told you they weren't very nice.

HIGH ELF

Elves. Back to Woodlands. Now!

(They exit)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You see. Just a mention of my sister's name and they get frightened.

MIRANDA

But they saved my life.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

That may be but it will be for a reason. Mark my words my dear. You come with us.

RUDIE

Can I come?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Of course not. it was probably you who pinched my bottom.

RUDIE

Me? I wouldn't even pinch my own bottom.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I'll look after you but first we'll visit my sister Morticia.

MIRANDA

Will she be able to help me find my parents?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Don't worry about that. I'll look up a Finding a Lost Parent spell. My sister's not quite as good as I am at spells but she's learning.

(They exit)

RUDIE

Well.... That's a fine mess you got me into. I'm officially abandoned and I will have to leave home. Nobody loves me. Nobody wants me. I'll just take my things and my tonic and hit the road.....

SONG:

It's hard when you have to leave home
It's hard when you're sent out to roam
The skyways and byways
The flyways and highways
With only a bag and a comb

But someday we all have to go
And hopefully now you all know
It's friendship not wealth
It's courage not stealth
Which will make each one of us grow

But it's hard when you have to leave home etc..

Exit crying tears.

When everyone has left all the broken toys that can move rush to the centre of the stage where they get into a heated unintelligible conference and then there's a flash and a bang and they fall into a dead heap.

SCENE 5

Front of tabs. A small child dressed as a pig comes into a centre spot and looks fearfully about. She oinks plaintively.

MORTICIA

(Off-stage)

Come back here you horrible little pig.

*The little pig squeals in terror and runs away from the voice only to run straight into Morticia who arrives
SR)*

Got you.

(Takes pig by ear.)

You were trying to run away weren't you?

(Pig shakes head)

Do you know what I do to pigs who try to run away? I turn them into BACON.

(Pig squeals in terror)

Got it? If I ever catch you even thinking about trying to escape, it'll be straight to the butcher's. Do you understand?

(Pig squeals in the affirmative.)

So get back to the castle and your smelly little brothers and sisters and behave yourself. Or else!

(Pig thoroughly cowed, rubbing tears from her eyes, emits pathetic little oinks as it goes off stage. Halts for a second)

Don't even think about it. That's the problem. No gratitude. I feed them. I clothe them. I educate them ...well sort of...I slave my fingers to the bone and they are never grateful.

(Sudden change)

They used to be children, just like you but I put a spell on them and changed them into pigs. Oink! Oink! ! Wasn't that clever?

Well they all behaved like little pigs so I thought I would teach them a lesson and make them look like pigs as well. It was such fun.

SONG :

CHORUS

It's fun to be a witch .. Ha! Ha!
 It's nice to be so mean..He! He!
 To be in charge of everything
 And never what you seem.

So you'd better mind your manners
 And treat me with respect
 Or I'll cast a spell on all of you
 And turn you into..... (*searches for it*) pigs Ha! Ha!

I don't like little children
 They're small and squirm and smell
 So mind you watch your manners
 Or I'll get you with my spell.

As long as I've my magic book
 I'll do just what I please.
 I'll turn you all to slimy worms
 Or give you a disease. He! He! He!

*(Audience will boo her off. She enjoys this. Little pig
 without her seeing, goes behind her across the stage.)*

Louder, come on louder. Is that all you can manage? It's pathetic.
 Whoa! Pig soouuuuu!

Exit

SCENE 6.

The Castle of Montezuma. The Spell Room. There are three columns with three doors in them and Gothic windows in between looking out over the sea. On a large stand sits The Great Book of Spells. There's a simmering cauldron SR. and on SL there's a sort of operating table on which Frankie lies asleep. Downstage is a long trough. A bookcase contains spell books and jars of unidentifiable bits in them with various labels like Adder's Venom, Rattlesnake juice, Elephant toenails, Mosquito wings, Lizard tongues, Eyeballs -Assorted, Private Parts-Unmentionable, Bladders-All sorts, Spiders' Noses, Snails' Whiskers. Etc... On the table at the back is spell making paraphernalia and a large official looking chair on a pedestal.

SFX There's an ominous hooting of an owl.

SFX An alarm clock goes off. Frankie jerks out of his sleep, stretches for the clock and turns it off.

Frankie is a gentle loving soul with a hideous exterior.

FRANKIE

(Waking up)

What's that? Oh....! It's the alarm clock. I was having a little nap, a sort of napette. Hello children. My name's Frankie. I look a bit funny, don't I? That's 'cos my mummy made me out of bits and pieces. I don't know whose bits and pieces they were. They don't fit very well. Sometimes bits drop off and it's very embarrassing. Do any of your bits ever drop off? No? I bet they don't. Well imagine what you would feel like if some of them did drop off.

Have you met my mum? She's called Morticia. She's a bit.... how can I put it? Different. Yes! That's the word. I work here and help her with her spells.

Can I tell you a secret? You won't laugh will you? I don't want to be a monster. I want to be a... pop singer. You said you wouldn't laugh. I do. I want to be a pop singer and sing rap. It's very difficult being a rapper.

You have to move very skillfully and I've been practising. I'm going to audition for "Arizona Idol". That "idol" I.D.O.L. Can I sing you my rap song? You won't laugh will you. Promise? All right. I will sing it just for you but no laughing. You can join in if you like.

(Frankie can teach the children in the audience a refrain with movement reflecting the associated body part.)

SONG :

I'm a man with a problem
With a bolt in my neck
I'm sewn all together
But I don't quite fit.

So if you have some compassion
And a little bit of time
Just listen to my story
Which I'll try to rhyme

I was born out of wedlock
On the factory floor
A little bit of this
And a whole lot more

Arms, legs, a body and a head
And some of the bits from the long gone dead.

But one little unit
I never did get.
My mama couldn't find one
That did quite fit.

It's a heart, a heart
That goes boom, boom
My mama confessed
That there was no room.

But there must be a place
There's got to be some room
For a nice little heart
That goes boom, boom.

I can't love
 I can't feel a thing
 I ain't got a pulse
 And my heart don't ring

With the music of the soul
 That goes ding, ding.
 I can't fall in love.
 I'm as dead as the grave

So please will you help me
 Help me find some room
 For a nice little heart
 That goes boom, boom .

Will you help me children? You will? Oh thank you.

Enter Morticia

MORTICIA

What on earth are you doing Frankie?

FRANKIE

Oh.. Oh dear... you caught me at it. I was singing the children my rap song.

MORTICIA

(Laughing)

Rap song!

FRANKIE

Don't laugh at me.

MORTICIA

(Laughing)

But you're my monster.

FRANKIE

You shouldn't laugh at me. It's not easy being a monster.

(Morticia ignores him and goes to the Great Books of Spells.)

MORTICIA

I caught one of those little pigs trying to creep out of the castle. You've got to keep an eye on them. You're not doing your job.

FRANKIE

I'm sick of my job.

MORTICIA

What?

FRANKIE

I said I'm sick of my job.

MORTICIA

(Hurt)

Why? It's a perfectly good job. Especially given today's economic climate.

FRANKIE

Looking after a dozen little pigs isn't my idea of a career. It doesn't exactly have a lot of prospects. I want to be a rapper.

MORTICIA

All right. I will try to get you a job wrapping at Macy's.

FRANKIE

Not that sort of wrapper. A singer.

MORTICIA

What nonsense.

FRANKIE

I want to go to ASU. I want to travel. I want to see the world. I want to be somebody. I want to meet interesting people and.... And....

MORTICIA

Shut up. I made you and you will do as you're told or I will UNmake you. A rapper. How low can you sink. Get on with your work.

FRANKIE*(Almost in tears)*

I'm sick of feeding the pigs and.....

MORTICIA*(Loudly)*

Frankie!

FRANKIE

Yes.

MORTICIA

FEED THE PIGS!

FRANKIE

Yes mum.

(Goes off stage singing)

I'm a man with a problem.....

MORTICIA

Children. You bring them into the world and they're never grateful. Now I must concentrate on my latest spell. It's very powerful and difficult. It will allow me to see into the future. It's very ancient and I have to admit... a little bit dangerous. Now I need two droops of this.... An ounce of that....

(She continues to collect the ingredients and put them in cauldron)

FRANKIE*(Off-stage)*

Come on piggies.... It's dinner time. Come and get it.

(He enters with bucket of slop and pours it into the trough downstage)

Come on. Don't be shy. Come and get it.

Enter little children all dressed as little pigs who oink their way warily to the trough and stick their noses in it.

MORTICIA

And don't give them too much. I don't like "fat pigs."

FRANKIE

That's it. Good little piggies. Get your dinner.

(He pats them all affectionately and makes sure they all get a place at the trough. For one of them he has a special bottle of milk.)

SFX Doorbell.

MORTICIA

Frankie, go and see who that is.

FRANKIE

Yes mum.

Exit

MORTICIA

I hate being disturbed when I'm in the middle of a spell.

Enter Widow Van Mouse and Miranda

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Hello Morticia my dear.

MORTICIA

Oh it's you.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I haven't seen you for a while.

(Pause)

Are you all right?

MORTICIA

Of course.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You look.... Upset

MORTICIA

I'm very busy. What do you want?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I've just had a strange experience with those elves. Oh... I'm sorry this is Miranda. Miranda, this is my sister Morticia.

MIRANDA

Good afternoon. I'm very pleased to meet.....

(She sees the pigs and reacts with startled shock)

They're so cute....

MORTICIA

Where are you from?

MIRANDA

Well..

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(Interrupting)

Would you believe it, the elves from Woodlands found her by the shore.

MIRANDA

They were very kind and saved my life.

MORTICIA

Elves! Kind? What sort of a foolish person are you? Elves are scum. They should be sent back to where they came from.

MIRANDA

But....

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Sister dear, I thought we might be able to help Miranda. You see she's lost her parents.

MORTICIA

Lost your parents! That's rather careless of you if you ask me.

MIRANDA

There was this storm and I came up on deck to show my parents their Christmas present...

MORTICIA

Christmas Present? CHRISTMAS PRESENT. What do you mean Christmas Present.

MIRANDA*(Fearfully)*

It fell overboard.

MORTICIA

How dare you talk to me about Christmas presents. We do not have Christmas here.

(Hysterically)

We hate and loathe Christmas. Bah humbug.. And we will not hear talk of it in this house.

(To Widow Van Mouse)

How dare you bring this insolent girl in here and start talking about Christmas. I am far too busy with my spells. And if you weren't so lazy you'd be a better witch. You are a disgrace to the profession. Mother said you were a goody goody. Now get out of my way, I have to collect a liter of bat's blood and a couple of deer's hearts. Christmas yuck.

*Exit***MIRANDA**

I'm so sorry. Did I say the wrong thing.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Don't worry my dear. She's always been a bit high strung. Never got married. She suffers from OSD

MIRANDA

OSD

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Obsessive Spell Disorder. She hasn't been herself for some time.

*Enter Frankie***FRANKIE**

I've put the kettle on Auntie. You are staying for tea aren't you?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

That's very nice of you Frankie... but perhaps we should just...

FRANKIE

I'd better make some sandwiches as well. You know sand for witches. I wrote that joke myself. I'll go and make them..

Exit

MIRANDA

Who was that?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

That's Frankie, Morticia's son. She wanted children but no-one would marry her so she constructed him.

MIRANDA

Constructed?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You can do it if you have the right spell. You can see from his appearance that my sister made a bit of a mess of it.

(Re-enter Frankie with tea things and a pile of cucumber sandwiches)

FRANKIE

I've got a nice hot cup of tea and your favorite, cucumber sandwiches.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Frankie, come and meet Miranda. She 's just arrived.

FRANKIE

Hullo.

(Very shyly and embarrassed)

My name's Frankie.

MIRANDA

(Shyly)

Pleased to meet you... I'm Miranda

FRANKIE

(Curling up in embarrassment)

That's a lovely name. You are very pretty. I don't meet a lot of girls.

MIRANDA

What do you do?

FRANKIE

I look after the pigs... well actually.... I'm planning to be rapper.

MIRANDA

A singer?

FRANKIE

Yes.... I've been practising.

(Two of the little pigs come across to the Widow and start rubbing themselves affectionately against her legs)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Now, now you eat your dinner. Aren't you cute little pigs.

FRANKIE

I want to go on Arizona Idol.

MIRANDA

Would you sing for me?

FRANKIE

I'd love to sing for you.

MIRANDA

Thank you.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Frankie. I don't think the pigs are getting enough food.

FRANKIE

All right Auntie I'll give them some more.

MIRANDA

(To Widow)

Aren't they adorable!

(She goes towards them but they shrink away from her)

Why are they so frightened?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

There's something very strange going on here. These pigs remind of somebody but I can't for the life of me remember who.

MIRANDA

They look very human. Here piggy, piggy. Don't be frightened. I won't hurt you.

(The pigs begin to oink and go up to her.)

FRANKIE

(To Miranda)

Would you like a cup of tea and a sandwich?

MIRANDA

Thank you. I was getting hungry.

FRANKIE

I don't know why but the pigs are always trying to escape. Two lumps?

MIRANDA

Thank you.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I do remember my sister talking about some spell she had for turning children into pigs. I didn't agree with it.

FRANKIE

Auntie..

(Offers a sandwich)

MORTICIA

(Re-enter Morticia with bags of ingredients)

Are you still here? Get out of my way.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

It's the OSD.

MORTICIA

(She checks the Book and then goes to the cauldron)

Three ounces of bat's blood and the final ingredient..just two deer's hearts.

Plop... Plop! That should do it:

Show me the future
But only to me.
Show me the future
And what is to be.

(Smoke issues from the cauldron. Lights dim and a strange light reflects out of the cauldron. Morticia stares into the light. There is the sound of clashing armor and horses and the cries of men in battle. Morticia's face twists into a terrible grimace and a great scream wells up in her throat.)

Ah..h...ah.... Ah....Ah.....

(She turns and looks at the others)

Lock up the pigs.

(Grabs a knife)

Lock up the pigs.

MIRANDA

But you can't.

FRANKIE

Mother. You mustn't hurt the pigs. Would you like a sandwich?

MIRANDA

(To the pigs)

Run for your lives.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Sister please.

FRANKIE

I need the knife mum. To cut the sandwiches. They're cucumber sandwiches.

MORTICIA

They will destroy me.

(Pigs run off in all directions squeaking away.)

(Frankie and Widow von Mouse do their best to restrain Morticia.)

And that girl.

MIRANDA

What?

MORTICIA

That girl... it's her..

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You'd better go my dear. She's having one of her bad turns. I think one of her spells has gone wrong. Try that door there. Sister dear. I think you better have one of my pink pills for pale people.

(Miranda opens one of the three doors and a skeleton suddenly appears. She screams and shuts the door)

MIRANDA

Which one?

FRANKIE

You want the middle one.

(Miranda opens another one and disappears)

Not that one.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(To Morticia)

You need to rest dear. Sit down here.

MORTICIA

The Elves, the elves, they will....

FRANKIE

Have a cucumber sandwich. They're much nice than the cheese. Don't you think Mum?

MORTICIA

I must follow her. I must stop her and the elves!!!

(She breaks free and disappears through one of the doors. Widow follows her.)

There follows some silly business in which Miranda, Morticia, the Widow and the skeleton come out of one door and they ask the audience which door they should go in "Did she go out this one?" Out that one? Pigs sometimes come out "oink" and run away. Should be a fast paced fun scene.

FRANKIE

I think I'll go and make myself another cup of tea.

Lights dim.

SFX Wind. Shadow of High Elf silhouetted in the window. As if from nowhere, the armed elves appear. A light comes up on one door. Miranda emerges. She stands centre stage, blinking and looking about her.

HIGH ELF

Seize her.

MIRANDA

What do you want?

HIGH ELF

Bind her.

(The Elves hold her and tie her)

MIRANDA

But I haven't done anything.

HIGH ELF

Stop her mouth.

Enter Frankie

FRANKIE

I'll have to make another pot of tea.

(He is surrounded and forced back.)

That's not very nice. Would you like a cup of tea and a cucumber sandwich?

HIGH ELF

It is the Hour of the High Magic. Your mother's power to see into the future grows by the minute. Stay out of our way.

FRANKIE

But my mother.....

HIGH ELF

(High Elf goes up to Frankie, places his hand on Frankie)

Criosio cum nah redeth.

(Frankie cannot speak.)

Elves. Back to Woodlands. Be careful with her.

They exit. Frankie's mouth moves but with no sound.

Enter Morticia from one of doors.

MORTICIA

If I catch those elves, I'll turn them into cockroaches.

(To Frankie)

Don't just stand there. What's the matter? Cat got your tongue?

(Frankie tries to mime what has happened but it looks rather like his rap song routine.)

Not that stupid rap again? Get after them. Get after them. Get all the pigs back.

(Frankie runs off with a sandwich and a pot of tea.)

Enter Widow van Mouse

MORTICIA

And you... you silly woman. Don't you know what you've done. You could destroy us both. Get that girl back and help Frankie herd the pigs.

Exit.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(To audience)

Well this is getting exciting isn't it?

I'm quite out of breath and I think my knickers have got in a twist again so it's time we all had a little breather. Your knickers are probably in a twist as well so you need a breather too. I hope we can sort all this lot out. I think I need a cup of tea as well. See you all after the break. Don't use any spells will you? Especially those really weak ones from Harry Potter. You might change everything for the worse. Bye.

END of ACT 1

SCENE 7

Overture.

The music should be brief and mysterious. The curtain opens with UV light - tall trees from fly bars to give a sense of depth, a throne CS which is part of a tree. Rocks and mounds appropriate to hide animals, elves, or anything else which might appear. Nets painted with UV lights to create effect of mystery and darkness.

THE DANCE OF THE ANIMALS AND DARK THINGS

Butterflies, humming birds, moths, insects and any creatures which flit through the darkness, their wings gossamer-like painted with UV. Now and again there is a conflict between different creatures suggesting disharmony. A large butterfly net with nobody holding it (suspended from the bars and operated similar to a puppet) pursues different creatures who evade its path. There should be a feeling of both freedom of pursuit as well as danger. The trees, mounds and rocks offer some protection but the children in the audience should be drawn in by the different activities in various places on the stage. The music is rhythmic and mysterious. This is the world of the welcoming yet dangerous forest.

SFX -a conch shell blown twice.

The dark things of the night disappear. Lights come up slowly. Elves begin to appear as if summoned by the conch. They talk querulously in a strange tongue about what is going on. The few elves who were at Dr. Van Klaus' house earlier talk to the rest about their experience. The word "present" and "Christmas" come up. This excites them and they become animated. Two guards stand either side of the throne. The conch sounds again more urgently. The two guards stamp the ends of their spears on stage in unison three times x 2. The elves kneel and the Elfin King enters and ascends the throne to the sound of conch and drum. It is a regal moment of pageant and authority.

ELFIN KING

(Loudly)

Chea-cricht alfred'n aiden.

(The elves rise as they have been commanded.)

Elves of the forest and the hidden, of the green world and the hollow banks, of streams and rivers, moors, meads and mountains, we have called you here to the ancient meeting place of Woodlands. There is great danger to us all and to the world. Morticia , the great witch of the Arizona Sea grows in her power. Her possession and use of the Great Book of Spells has allowed her to see into the future.

(Elves show much consternation)

No one is safe here. The voice of the forest has spoken to the Elfin World.

SFX : Conch

The time of great danger is upon us.

(More consternation)

Croi-fach'tr inshtoll.

(At this command the elves kneel)

We call on you now for good counsel. We must leave the island or remain and fight Morticia. If we leave, we must prepare our ships within the hour. What do you decide?

*Enter heavily armed Elf 1 who kneels and speaks
breathlessly*

ELF 1

Lord Godin, King of the Elves... they're coming.... they're coming.

ELFIN KING

Who is coming?

ELF 1

Some form of monster. It was hard to see ... it has a red light in the middle of its face and a terrible voice.

ELFIN KING

(Turns and says urgently)

Droig dracht.

(The elves scatter and hide.

Hoichran Ich'moch

(The Elfin King swirls his cloak about him , the light on the throne changes to a red spot and he becomes invisible.)

Enter Rudie with case and bottle. To the audience.

RUDIE

There. I've left home. They'll be sorry. Stupid old man. He used to be nice.

(Looks around)

Where am I? I think I'm lost. This is a very scary place. I've got my belongings here in my suitcase. I am going to make my fortune..... I am going to sell my tonic. Blue Tonic for Blue people. It'll cheer them up and give them a red nose. Everyone should have a red nose. The only trouble is that I'm lost. Is there anybody who can help me?

(To the audience)

Do you know of anyone who could help me? Who?

(Hopefully the audience will say the elves or the Elfin King)

The King? What King? Over there? Where? You're joking. But you will warn me if I'm in danger.

(Elves appear from behind trees but always in the opposite place to where Rudie is looking. A skeleton slinks passed)

There's nobody there. You're just trying to frighten me. Where? Over there? There's nobody there. What? there? Behind me?

(Elfin King rises. Armed Elves enter spears at the ready.)

RUDIE

Ahaaaaaaaaaaaaa..... Help !

Exit running and chased by Elves.

Enter High Elf followed by Miranda with a white blindfold on her and arms tied behind her back.

ELFIN KING

Gorboduc.. Is this the girl?

HIGH ELF

It is Lord Godin. I have done as you commanded. We found her by the seashore and we took her first to the Doctor who brought her back to life.

(Undoes the blindfold)

ELFIN KING

You have done well and as the forest spoke.

ELF 1

(Shouts)

She's the one. She's the one that knows about Christmas.

Elves come to life. They murmur.

ELVES

She talked about Christmas presents. She must know about Christmas etc.....

(They start chanting)

Make her talk. Make her talk.

ELF 1

Make her tell us about Christmas.

MIRANDA

No! Stop. Stop.

ELFIN KING

Dracht invor.

(The elves go quiet and retreat.)

Have no fear. We wish you no harm. You are welcome for the forest has spoken your name and warned us that you must come to no harm.

*(There's a rumble of thunder and the sound of a wind.
The Elfin King looks up and listens.)*

It is time for us to go. There is powerful magic in the land and we must prepare our ships before it is too late.

(Thunder)

Listen.

(To Miranda)

The power of the future is yours. Seek out the Magical Book of Names which was stolen by Morticia and return it to its rightful owner. Then you must somehow reverse The Spell of Forgetfulness.

MIRANDA

What book? What spell? What are you talking about?

(Flash of thunder and lightning)

ELFIN KING

The forest has spoken. Elves. Prepare the ships. Take your tools.

(To Miranda as he comes down from his throne)

If you wish to see your parents again and you wish to have Christmas, you must follow my advice.

(To the Elves)

Croiso dociou. Cyum Naraeth.

(He holds up his staff and strikes the ground. There is a flash of lightning and then the stage goes dark and there is complete stillness. Suddenly from off-stage.)

RUDIE

Ahaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa.....

Enter Rudie as if pursued..... He hides in the audience with much noise.

I'm being chased by monsters.

MIRANDA

Rudie? Rudie?

RUDIE

Ahhhhhh.....

Exits. Enter Widow chased by pigs.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Oooooooooo..... Oooooooooo..... The pigs are chasing me. This is not funny.
Excuse me. Oooooooooo....

PIGS

Oink.. Oink Oink

Exit pursued by pigs

Enter Rudie again from opposite direction.

RUDIE

I've think I've outrun them. I should be in the Olympics.

(He runs standing still and glancing over his shoulder.)

Enter Frankie with very large torch which he shines round the theatre.

FRANKIE

Here piggy, piggy, piggies. Come to Frankie.

MIRANDA

Frankie.

FRANKIE

You remember my name.

MIRANDA

Of course. What are you doing?

FRANKIE

I'm trying to get the pigs together. Here piggies. Come to Frankie.

Enter Widow chased by pigs.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Oops... I've got my knickers in a twist again.

RUDIE

Your knickers? What about mine?

FRANKIE

(talking to pigs)

Come over here. That's better. You have to do as Frankie says.

(Rudie stops running.)

RUDIE

That's a relief. Those horrible elves turned themselves into pigs.

FRANKIE

That's better. What?

(One pig whispers in Frankie's ear.)

All right. I promise not to take you back to the castle as long as you behave yourselves.

PIGS

(Overjoyed)

Oink, oink, oink, oink.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I think the elastic is going.

(Terrible twang of rubber snapping)

Oooooooh. How embarrassing. I think my knickers are going to fall down.

FRANKIE

All right. Now. Let's tidy you up. You are all in a right old mess.

(He fusses around them, blowing their noses, wiping their bottoms etc,,,)

That's better.

RUDIE

(Starts crying violently)

I've lost almost all of my tonic and my clothes and my suitcase. I've only got one bottle left. I'll never make my fortune now.

MIRANDA

Everybody, calm down.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(Looks up her skirt.)

No I think it's all right. They're holding. That's lucky. I thought I might have to do some emergency repairs.

MIRANDA

Listen everybody. We haven't got much time. The Elfin King told me that we have to get the Magical Book of Names back from Morticia and return it to its rightful owner.....

RUDIE

Who's that?

MIRANDA

I don't know. We also have to reverse the Spell of Forgetfulness if I want to see my parents again and get back home. The Elves are planning to leave. Surely someone can help us.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Well I can help you with the spell.

PIGS

Oink, oink oink

(they keep running up to Miranda and nodding their little heads.)

MIRANDA

The spell?

(Pigs shake their heads)

The Book?

(Pigs nod their heads)

You know about the Magical Book of Names?

(Pigs nod their heads)

Where is it?

(Pigs all act terrified)

Back at the castle?

(Pigs nod reluctantly)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

There's something about those pigs that's very, very...

(Two pigs come and nuzzle up to the Widow)

You're tickling me you naughty things. You do look very, very... familiar.

MIRANDA

Frankie, what shall we do? You know the castle.

FRANKIE

There are lots of back doors so I should be able to get you in there but I don't know where the book is.

MIRANDA

The Elfin King said that Morticia's power was getting stronger.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Don't you worry about my sister. I am much cleverer than she is. I'll make one of my forgetting spells which will make everybody forget everything. It works brilliantly on old people but it's quite easy to reverse - you just put the ingredients in backwards. I used it once on myself and I couldn't remember a thing for weeks. Morticia has OSD... obsessive spell disorder. I better look up a cure for that as well. Come on... we'll have to go to my spell shop where I keep all my ingredients.

MIRANDA

Rudie, piggies, will you help Frankie?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Come on everyone, children... I mean pigs. Why do I keep calling you children? Rudie. You too. Pick up the little ones. Look, they're tired out. Poor little souls. Back to the shop. We can all have a cup of tea.

Exit Widow, Rudie and pigs.

FRANKIE

Morticia is my mum you know. I don't think she's very well at the moment.

MIRANDA

We won't do anything to harm her. We have to get the Magical Book of Names and reverse the Spell of Forgetfulness. We have to do what he said so I can find my parents.

FRANKIE

You're right. I will help you but can I ask you something?

MIRANDA

Of course.

FRANKIE

Do you think I could be your friend?

MIRANDA

You are my friend.

FRANKIE

I've never had a friend. People are put off by the way I look.

MIRANDA

Well, I'm not.

FRANKIE

Thank you. That means a great deal. Can I tell you something which is very personal.

MIRANDA

Of course. I'll keep it a secret.

FRANKIE

I don't have a heart.

MIRANDA

What do you mean you don't have a heart?

FRANKIE

Well, you see... my mum made me out of bits and pieces, other people's bits and pieces and when she'd finished, there wasn't any room left for a heart.

MIRANDA

Frankie, where I come from they give people new hearts all the time.

FRANKIE

They do?

MIRANDA

Yes.. If we get out of this mess. I'll get you a heart.

FRANKIE

You will? You've made me so happy. And, can I be a pop singer?

MIRANDA

You can be anything you want to be.

SONG :

Miranda

You can be anything you want to be
 Anything you fancy,
 Anyone you want to be
 But first you have to dream.

(Miranda encourages Frankie to sing)

(Together)

We can be anything we want to be,
 Anything we fancy
 Anyone we want to be
 But first we have to dream

(Frankie)

First I'd like to have a heart
 That would be the start
 Of a life I'd like to live
 Think of all the joy I'd give.

(Miranda)

Join the circus be a clown

Frankie

Be a doctor, wear a crown

Miranda

Be a lawyer, wear a frown

Frankie

Be a model, wear a gown.

Together

We can be anything we want to be
 But first we have to dream.

Frankie

I'd dream of all the places in the world
All the people that I'd meet
All the children that I'd greet
With my smile and funny feet.

Miranda

And they'd love you for a heart
Even though it's not a part
That you have.

Together

We can be anything we want to be
Anything we fancy
Anyone we want to be
But first we have to dream.

Enter Widow

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Are you two coming? Or are you falling in love with each other?

Exeunt

SCENE 8

Shop of the Widow van Klaus. Large pot for mixing over the trap and smoke rising from it. Big enough to put someone in or someone to rise up out of. Large painted shelves with rows of pots containing assorted ingredients such as Lady Gaga's Suspenders, Obama Ears (Large), Prince Charles Ears (Extra Large), Sarah Palin Brains (Small), Pink Underwear (Gov.Issue), California Pot (Medicinal), Arizona Pot (Mexican), Rattlesnake Sweat (Rare), Saquaro Ketchup (Hot), Paris Hilton (Cold), Penelope Cruz (Hot), Zac Efron (Too hot), Confusion Values (Old), Confusion Values (New), Racial Slurs (Mel's ++extra hot), Racial Slurs (TP-subtle), Papal Bull (Large), Arizona Bull (Very Large), US Debt (Gigantic)

Enter Widow van Mouse, Rudie.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I've sent the children, I mean the pigs, down to the kitchen but you two are going to have to help me collect all my ingredients. You too Rudie. If I remember right, the Unforgetting Spell is a very complicated one. Now where's my servant Blitzer?

(Loudly)

Blitzer!

(to one of the pigs)

Come and sit down over here. What's your name?

PIG 1

Oink.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

That's a bit of a funny name. And what's yours?

PIG 2

Oink, Oink.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

All right. Oink you sit here and Oink Oink you sit over there. Good job there's only two of you otherwise we'd be oinking all night.

Enter Blitzer dressed as a butler. British voice.

BLITZER

You rang Madam.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

No I didn't. I shouted. Fooled you! I want you to go to the kitchen and feed all the pigs.

BLITZER

In the kitchen?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

In the kitchen. Then come back here to help me with a very special spell.

BLITZER

Yes Madam. Whatever you say Madam.

Exit Blitzer

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Now where's my Spell Book? Oh dear, it's gone. Everybody have a look.

(To audience)

Look under your seats.

(A young member of the audience finds it underneath their seat.)

There it is. You found it. What a clever girl/boy. Come up here to my shop. You can join my children, I mean pigs, and help me with this spell. Thank goodness you came tonight. Sit there. Let's have a look at the book.

(Reads)

Hot weather spell. Too easy. Electing President Spell.... The page is black and all the lettering white. Isn't that strange? Here we are. The Forgetting Spell. Dear me, there's some really strange ingredients. The Arizona Republic? Has anyone got one? Look under your seat.

(These clues have been planted with the audience at the interval)

Well done. Frilly red knickers? Well done sir.

Better not tell your wife where you got them. They're hers? Well, don't tell me how you got them. One sweaty sock? Rudie... get the sock. A set of false teeth. Thank you very much Madam.

(He mimes having no teeth.)

Don't worry I'll get them back for you later. A Bra size FF. Is anyone wearing a double F? Thank you Sir. You look much better without it. Here's the last ingredient. A White Servant. Is there a white servant out there? Not a single one. What about Blitzer?

Enter Blitzer

BLITZER

You rang madam.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

No I didn't. I shouted. You always get it wrong. This spell calls for a white servant.

(Blitzer whispers in Widow's ear)

Rudie. Come here. Dear me, you're not very white are you. Blitzer go and get some white wash.

BLITZER

Yes Madam. As you wish.

Exit

RUDIE

Whitewash?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

We've got to make you white. It says so in the spell. Blitzer thought that you would be just right. He said you would be too stupid to notice.

RUDIE

He did?

Re-enter Blitzer with three buckets of whitewash and a plastic mat.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Better put this plastic down so we don't get it all over everything.

RUDIE

Wait a minute. Wait a minute! He recommended me? Now you're going to cover me with that stuff and make me an ingredient and put me in there?

(Points to the cauldron)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Yes.

RUDIE

Excuse me Mr Blitzer. Could you show me what you have in mind?

BLITZER

(Gets large paint brush dips it in whitewash)

Something like this.

(Whitewashes Rudie front.)

RUDIE

I see. Excuse me Widow Van Mouse. Could I have word?

(Whispers in her ear)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

All right Dearie. If you think it will make a difference. Now, I've got to get these ingredients in the right order.

RUDIE

Blitzer, there's been a change of plans. I'm more experienced with a paint brush than you so we're going to whitewash you.

(Takes brush, dips it into whitewash and while Blitzer stands there whitewashes him all up his front and under his armpits.)

I think he's ready now.

(Turns towards the Widow. Blitzer in the meantime picks up the brush, mimes to the audience to get their agreement to white wash Rudie, dips the brush, practices getting the audience to agree and is just about to paint Rudie's back when he moves out of the way and Blitzer merrily whitewashes the Widow.)

Recognizing his mistake he looks sheepishly at the Widow. Rudie collapses laughing. The Widow takes the brush and white washes Blitzer.)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

That's just great. Come on. We must hurry.

RUDIE

Ha! Ha! Ha!

(Blitzer gets the brush and sets upon covering Rudie)
Heh that's not fair.

(Rudie finds another brush and starts to do the same to Blitzer. They take it in turns getting the audience to agree.

Shall I? Shall I? etc.

*Sticks the white wash down Blitzer's trousers, etc..
This goes on until they are both covered in white.*

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(Turning from her cauldron and the spell)
Now, are you ready? Dear me ,there's two of you. I only need one. Which one of you is which? You both look the same.

(She peers at their whitewashed faces. Rudie picks up the bucket and is about to put it over Blitzer's head but misses and it goes all over the Widow.)

RUDIE

Sorry.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Look what you've done you rascal.

(She gets the other bucket and tries to put it over Rudie, misses and catches Blitzer. Rudie turns and laughs. Blitzer gets the third bucket which is full of paper confetti and chases him into the audience if need be, Rudie stops.)

RUDIE

Don't do it!

(Blitzer swings the bucket and covers the audience with confetti .)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Look you two, we've got to get on with the spell so stop the shenanigans. We have to put the ingredients in backwards so that it becomes an Unforgetting Spell. So in you go. I don't mind which one of you.

RUDIE

What me! Go down there? Oh, all right.

(Gets behind cauldron and looks in.)
Are you sure it's safe in there?

BLITZER

Of course it is. Safe as houses.

RUDIE

But look ...

(Points into the cauldron)
Look at that. That's absolutely amazing. It's a river of gold.

BLITZER

A river of gold?

(He comes round next to Rudie)
Where?

RUDIE

There. Look.

BLITZER

I can't see it.

RUDIE

There.

(He tips Blitzer into the cauldron by getting hold of his feet.)

BLITZER

Hey!

(He disappears. There's a big puff of smoke.)

RUDIE

Don't ever call me stupid.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

So you decided. Good. Let's get the rest of the ingredients put in. Set of false teeth.

(To audience)

One sweaty sock.

(Smells it.)

Oooh. Must be from a democrat. Red frilly knickers. Definitely Republican - probably been to Voyeur. And the Arizona Republic..... Well that shouldn't cause any controversy.

(An explosion, smoke and then a large blurb)

Dear me.

(Looks down cauldron)

What's that.

(Fishes out a large bottle of pills)

That's them. It says it on the label. Rememorex.

(She reads)

The more pills you take the more you remember. Not recommended for Bush supporters. Excellent for the treatment of OSD. Obsessive Spell Disorder. That's just what Morticia needs.

Enter Miranda and Frankie

There you two are. We've done the spell. Look. We just have to decide on the correct dosage.

MIRANDA

That's wonderful. But you've all gone white.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

We had a little trouble with the last ingredient. Which reminds me.

(Peers in cauldron)

Blitzer.

(A Hand comes out clutching false teeth a La Lady of the Lake)

Well done. Thank you. Madam your teeth.

MIRANDA

We need the Magical Books of Names now.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

We' have to go to the Castle of Montezuma to get that.

FRANKIE

We will have to go in by the back door. I'll go first.and lead the way.

MIRANDA

You are so brave Frankie.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

We had better take my spell book and don't forget the pills. Rudie clean yourself up!

RUDIE

What shall we do about the pigs?

FRANKIE

They must come with us. I have a plan and we need them.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Children, you're coming with us. Come on. We're going back to the castle. Don't worry. You'll be perfectly safe. We're going to help Morticia.

MIRANDA

And you have to help us because you know where the Magical Book of Names is hidden.

Exeunt.

(Hand comes out of pot and head appears adorned with sock and red bra.)

BLITZER

I don't feel very well.

Blackout.

SCENE 9

Spell room in the Castle of Montezuma as in Scene 6.

Enter Frankie and pigs.

FRANKIE

Now remember the plan. Just behave normally.

PIGS

Oink, oink.

FRANKIE

I am going to pretend that I'm feeding you. Right?

PIGS

Oink oink.

(They go to the trough)

Mummy! Mummy! I've got them all back.

Enter Morticia.

MORTICIA

Thank goodness for that. Perhaps I didn't understand that spell last time. I must look into the future again and re-check the ingredients. Yes, Yes.... Wait a minute. It wasn't bats' blood it was cat's blood. Fetch me the cat's blood. It's in the fridge.

FRANKIE

Yes Mum. And I'll get food for the pigs.

Exit

MORTICIA

That's the mistake. Two deer's hearts and half a cup of cat's blood. Hurry up Frankie.

Re-enter Frankie with blood and food

FRANKIE

Got it. Here you are.

MORTICIA

(adds ingredients)

That's it.

(Lights out of cauldron. SFX sound of armour clashing, horses etc)

Oh No! My sister's on her way here. She'll find out what I did to her. Someone is going to steal the Magical Books of Names. I must stop all this. I know, I'll take the Magical Books of Names out of its hiding place and put it in a new place that nobody knows about.

(She looks this way and that.)

Frankie. Put your hands over your eyes.

(Frankie does as he is told and nods to the pigs to pay attention. All the pigs put their hands over their eyes - sort of. Morticia goes to the side of the cauldron, taps three times and says .)

Anonzira.

(The side comes down and Morticia fishes out the Magic Book of Names which looks like a Register of Births , Deaths and Marriages. The pigs are watching.

I'll hide it somewhere new.

(She goes to back of the set. Knocks out a brick and hides the book and replaces the front of the brick)

There.

FRANKIE

Can I open my eyes now Mummy?

MORTICIA

They'll never find it. You can't give a present if you don't have a name and address. I'll put a spell on it just in case.

Touch this slightly with your hand
And straight away you're underground.

Anonzira.

Let's see if it works. Frankie. Touch that.

FRANKIE

Touch what?

MORTICIA

Just touch that brick.

FRANKIE

(Touches it and activates the trap. A trap opens up and he disappears.

Help! Mummy! I'm disappearing. Help me.

Exit down trap

MORTICIA

Serves you right. It goes to the dungeon you fool. Don't think I don't know you're part of this plan. I saw you in the spell. Wait a minute. I hear my sister. I'll pretend everything is normal. That'll fox her.

Enter Widow Van Mouse,
Sister. What are you doing here?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I was very worried about you. Oh, there are the children.

MORTICIA

What do you mean children?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I mean the pigs... a little mistake. Where's Frankie?

MORTICIA

He slid out for a while.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I've been very worried about you. You haven't been yourself.

MORTICIA

Hum...what do you want?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I don't want anything. I brought you some really good vitamin pills. You've been a bit peaky recently.

MORTICIA

I don't need vitamin pills.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I made these specially for you and they are FDA approved already.

MORTICIA

You're after the Magical Book of Names aren't you? Well, you won't get it.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Magical Book of names? I don't know what you are talking about.

MORTICIA

I've seen it all.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

What you need is a drink.

MORTICIA

I'll never tell you where the book is. Never.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I don't know what you're talking about. How about a DRINK?

MORTICIA

But the girl. What about the girl?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Now that you mention it. I've captured her for you.

MORTICIA

For me?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Yes. She's just outside.

MORTICIA

Why?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Because you're my sister.

MORTICIA

But I've.....

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I could really do with a drink. I think I'll have one of these vitamin pills myself.

(She swallows two and looks a bit silly)

MORTICIA

They must be all right then.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I bought them at Costco's. Have you got a drink?

MORTICIA

Of course.

(Morticia fetches the Widow a bottle and two glasses)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Are you going to have one with me?

MORTICIA

I suppose so. It's so difficult being a witch.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Tell me about it.

MORTICIA

Well, since you captured the girl...I think we're safe.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Well sort of... here, have your drink.....

(She puts a pill into the drink)

You'll feel a lot better.

MORTICIA

I was so worried. I did this very difficult spell for looking into the future...

(Hesitates)

This is very strong.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You're not the drinker you used to be ... sister.

MORTICIA

I feel different...and...

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Does give you a bit of a lift. Probably the effect of the red underwear.

MORTICIA

The what?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Nothing dear.

MORTICIA

I feel so strange. I think I'm going to sleep. I really need... sleep.

(She falls asleep)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Miranda? Miranda? It's all right. She's fallen asleep.

Enter Miranda

MIRANDA

What happened to Frankie?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I don't know.

MIRANDA

Pigs, where's Frankie?

(Pigs point to the trap)

Two of you. Go find Frankie.

Look. There's the Great Book of Spells.

(She reads)

A spell for seeing into the future. Urrggg... that's horrible... cat's blood!!!!

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I think we better get out of here before my sister wakes up.

MIRANDA

But you said.....

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Well sometimes my spells aren't very good. They are not exactly reliable these days.

MIRANDA

But we have to have the Magical Book of Names.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I don't know where it is.

MIRANDA

Pigs, do you know?

PIGS

Oink, Oink

(All shake heads)

MIRANDA

Children. You have to help us. Where is the Magical Book of Names? Over there?

(Hopefully a small child can be coaxed up onto the stage to indicated the brick behind which the book is hidden.)

How do you open it? Magic words? What? Anozira. What do you mean? Be careful. There's a trap.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

If in doubt say the word backwards.

MIRANDA

Children. What's Anozira backwards.

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

ARIZONA

MIRANDA

Shout it louder. I don't think you are shouting it loudly enough.

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

ARIZONA

(Trap eventually opens revealing the book.)

MIRANDA

It worked. There it is. The Magical Books of Names.

(She gets the book)

It's the names and addresses of all the children in the world. And look in the front... something has been crossed out.

(Reads)

"This book belongs to Father Christmas." aka Dr. Van Klaus

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Dr. Van Klaus? Father Christmas?

Enter a very disheveled and whitewashed Blitzer

BLITZER

The spell...the spell... you missed it Madam.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Blitzer? Is that you?

BLITZER

You rang?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

No I didn't. You never get it right.

BLITZER

Part of the spell.

(Hands Widow piece of paper)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(Reads)

Say is backwards. We know that.

BLITZER

Just trying to be of assistance Madam.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Go and get yourself cleaned up. And give that lady her teeth. And that gentleman his red frilly knickers.

Exit Blitzer

It's so difficult to get good servants these days. They all seem to have gone back to Mexico.

MIRANDA

We must return the Magical Book of Names to Father Christmas.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Dr. Van Klaus. Well we know where he lives.

MIRANDA

But what about the Spell of Forgetfulness?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

(Holds up pills)

Don't worry dear. Rememorex cures everything.

MORTICIA

(Awakening)

It's not fair. It's not fair.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Give her a pill. Quick.

MORTICIA

(Swallows pill.)

I am so sorry sister. I'm so sorry... I didn't mean to ...

(Morticia rushes off stage crying)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I think she's got her knickers in a twist.....

Enter Frankie a bit bemused led by two pigs

FRANKIE

Auntie... I'm not feeling very well.

MIRANDA

Frankie. Are you all right?

FRANKIE

I had a bit of a turn. I'm all shook up... I'm all shook up...but I'm fine.

MIRANDA

We've got the Magical Book of Names. We just have to take it to Dr. Van Klaus. He's Father Christmas.

FRANKIE

Is my mum all right?

MIRANDA

She's just a bit upset.

FRANKIE

What about the pigs?

MIRANDA

They're all here.

FRANKIE

I think they should have a pill as well.

MIRANDA

Yes, we will do that. Are you all right?

FRANKIE

I feel a bit sad but I don't know why.

MIRANDA

What can we do?

FRANKIE

Could you get the children to sing a happy song? That would cheer me up.

MIRANDA

All right. Widow Van Klaus? Will you help me?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Of course Dearie. But don't forget, we have to hurry up and take that Book back to its rightful owner.

MIRANDA

What shall we sing?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Children! Do you know this song?

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands,
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands,
If you're happy and you know it
And you really want to show it,
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

Etc.....

(Frankie does his rap version)

ALL

Bye children.... See you at Dr Klaus' house.

SCENE 10

The workshop as in Scene 4 but the atmosphere is entirely different. The toys are sitting in their places as before but they are whole and smiling. The cobwebs are gone. It looks fresh. Sound of sleigh bells.

Enter Dr. Van Klaus. The eyes of the toys follow him.

DR.VAN KLAUS

I don't know what the matter iz wiz me. I keep wanting to laugh. Ho! Ho! Ho! Zere I go again. Zis place looks quite different. I feel zat we ought to be doing something. I don't know what. Vere's zat Rudie, ze rascal?

(Shouts)

Rudie. Ho! Ho! Ho! Zere I go again.

(Knocking at the door)

Come in.

Enter Miranda and Rudie

Vot a surprise. Ho! Ho! Ho! Can I help you?

MIRANDA

Dr. Klaus. We've bought you your book.

DR.VAN KLAUS

My book? Vat book?

MIRANDA

The Magical Book of Names.

RUDIE

It's your book. Look.

(Reads)

This book belongs to Dr. Van Klaus, also known as Father Christmas.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Goodness. Zat's my signature. But I don't remember. Book of Names. Book of Names. Vere did you find it?

RUDIE

At the castle. Oh, and the Widow van Klaus said that you had to take one of these.

(Hands him the bottle of pills)

They're special.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Rememorex.

RUDIE

Here, wash it down with some of my tonic.

(The toys are all excited behind him and leaning forward while nodding to each other and clapping their hands)

DR.VAN KLAUS

(Reads)

To reverse the effects of the Spell of Forgetfulness.

(He swallows a pill)

Zis tonic is very strong. So tell me vere did you find ze Book?

MIRANDA

Well,... Morticia borrowed it..

DR.VAN KLAUS

And who told you to bring it here?

MIRANDA

The Elfin King.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Who?

MIRANDA

The Elfin King.

DR.VAN KLAUS

(Remembering)

My old friend the Elfin King? Vere is he?

MIRANDA

He and the elves had to prepare to leave, and he told me if I wanted to see my parents again and celebrate Christmas...

DR.VAN KLAUS

(Shouts)

Christmas!

TOYS

Christmas!

DR.VAN KLAUS

Of course, of course...

(He rushes to the calendar on the wall and tears off the days/months)

What iz ze date? What iz ze date?

MIRANDA

It's December 24th.

DR.VAN KLAUS

(In shock)

December 24th! Where are ze Elves? I have to get ready. Vait a minute. What am I saying? I don't understand. What is happening? I am going crazy.

MIRANDA

The Elfin King told us to reverse the Spell of Forgetfulness.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Ze Spell of Forgetfulness... I zinc I am remembering.

RUDIE

I don't think the pill is working. Perhaps we should give him another one.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Vat exactly did the Elfin King say?

MIRANDA

He said return the Magical Book of Names to its rightful owner and reverse the Spell of Forgetfulness. The Widow Van Klaus made a reversal spell.

DR. VAN KLAUS

Widow van Klaus?

MIRANDA

Morticia's sister.

DR. VAN KLAUS

I am remembering.

(Looks around)

My workshop. Vere are all the presents? It's Christmas Eve and zer are no presents. My goodness. Zis is going to be a disaster! Rudie! Rudie! I have to get changed. Ve have to be off. Vere is my book of names? Get Blitzzer. Get the elves. Ho! Ho! Ho. Zer I go again.

Exit

MIRANDA

But Dr. Klaus... We forgot ...

RUDIE

What?

MIRANDA

We forgot to say the magic word when we gave him the pill.

RUDIE

I can't remember what it was.

MIRANDA

I can't either. Children can you remember?

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

Anozira

MIRANDA

That's it. Anozira.

Enter Widow all out of breath.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Cooieeeee everyone. I am out of breath. Did you give him the book?

MIRANDA

Yes. He seemed upset. We gave him a pill.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Did you say the magic word?

MIRANDA

No.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

You've got to remember. Anytime you give someone the pill you have to say...

(Gets response from audience)

That's right. Anozira. Now, Rudie I think you ought to have a pill.

RUDIE

Why?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Maybe you've forgotten something really important.

RUDIE

All right.

(Swallows one)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Children.

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

Anozira.

RUDIE

Goodness me. I'm a reindeer! I'm a reindeer. I want some hay. I need hay.

Exit making reindeer noises and singing Jingle Bells.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Perhaps I had better have one myself though my memory is pretty good.

(Takes pill)

Children !

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

Anozira.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Didn't have any effect at all. I must be immune to my own spells.

Enter Dr. Van Klaus in the final process of putting on his Santa Klaus costume.

Peter Klaus... Peter Klaus... my husband.

DR.VAN KLAUS

What?

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Children. The magic word.

CHILDREN IN AUDIENCE

Anozira

DR.VAN KLAUS

Cynthia... my wife.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I thought I was a widow.

DR.VAN KLAUS

I didn't know who I was. I'm Santa Klaus. I'm Father Christmas.

(They collapse in each others arms)

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

I though there was something funny about my name. I'm not exactly a mouse am I?

DR.VAN KLAUS

You are Mrs. Van Klaus.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

But what about the children. Where are the children? I had forgotten about my children.

Enter Frankie.

FRANKIE*(Calling off stage)*

It's all right. I know you're shy.

(To the cast)

I reversed the spell on them. It was quite easy. I just did it backwards and they turned into children. Come on.

Enter children still in piggy costume but no nose and ears so they just look like they are wearing pajamas.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

My children! Where have you been? Where have I been?

(She rushes to embrace them and calls them all by their names)

SFX : Sound of the conch.

DR.VAN KLAUS

The Elves are coming. Listen .

(Elves singing Christmas is Coming the goose is getting fat etc.....)

It's Christmas Eve. Children all over ze world are expecting their toys. The spell has been broken but ve have no toys.

Enter Rudie, dressed as a reindeer munching some hay, horns on his head and a glowing red nose.

RUDIE

(With authority)

Time to get going. We've got presents to deliver.

Enter Elves from audience each carrying a present which they place on stage while singing "We Wish you a Merry Christmas. We Wish you a Merry Christmas etc..."

SFX : Sound of conch.

Enter Elfin King who strides onto the stage tapping his staff.

ELFIN KING

Welcome back Father Christmas.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Velcome, Lord Godin. King of the Forests and the Hidden Places

ELFIN KING

The Spell is broken. We brought you your presents to give to the children of the world. Once more the elves will work for Santa Klaus. Once more there will be Christmas. I command the forest to speak!

(Loud explosion and trees decorated with lights descend.)

And there will be presents for all.

(Children distribute candies to the children in the audience. Suddenly a terrible wail comes up from the audience and a very haggard and upset Morticia enters)

MORTICIA

Sister ! Sister! I've had a terrible dream.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

What's that my dear?

MORTICIA

I dreamed I was terribly nasty to everyone and I cast a spell which made everyone forget who they were.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Why would you do that?

MORTICIA

Because... because... I wanted a husband and no one would marry me...

(boo hooing)

and you had a husband and I wanted children... and you had all those children and I didn't have any.

WIDOW VAN MOUSE

Never mind dear. I think you should forget all about that. It was just a nasty dream. In the future, leave the difficult magic to me. I am sure that we all forgive you, don't we?

ELFIN KING

The forest has spoken. You are forgiven. And Frankie, son of Morticia, there is a special present for you to thank you for your kindness.

FRANKIE

Me?

MIRANDA

Yes. This is for you Frankie.

(She comes forward with her original present)

FRANKIE

What is it?

MIRANDA

It's my heart.

FRANKIE

You're giving me your heart? But I'm ugly. I'm made out of bits and pieces.

MIRANDA

You're not ugly Frankie. You are gentle and kind and loving.

FRANKIE

Will you help me be a pop star?

MIRANDA

Yes I will.

ELFIN KING

One last gift. Miranda, as I promised you.

(Strikes floor)

SFX: Sound of conch.

Miranda's mother and father enter.

MIRANDA

Mummy! Daddy.

PARENTS

Miranda. You're alive!

MIRANDA

I've had such an adventure. Come and meet everyone.

RUDIE

It's time to go. Come on Father Christmas. Have you got your book? Can't deliver presents unless we've got all the names and addresses. Have some tonic. Put a bit of color in your nose.

DR.VAN KLAUS

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas everyone. Got to be off. Goodbye.

Exeunt Rudie and Dr. Van Klaus

Elves start singing

ALL**FINAL SONG:**

Elves:

Now it's time for us all to enjoy Christmas
It's a time for peace and joy.
It's a time for all to enjoy Christmas
And for children to have toys.

The bells ring out their message
The stars shine oh so bright.
And all the trees are sparkling
With a thousand twinkling lights.

(Miranda picks up the tune)

Miranda:

It is Christmas
When children's voices fill the air
And love and laughter's everywhere.
It is Christmas.
A special time for special things.
Think of all the joy it brings.

Christmas is....

Christmas is

A sky full of snowflakes drifting slowly down
Dressing up the world in a new white gown.

Yes, Christmas is the little things
Rolling snowballs down a hill
Or a robin who comes pecking on your windowsill.

Elves:

And now we remember Christmas
As we always wished we could.
It's always been the time of year
When all the world was good.