



Pantomonium

by Steve Burton

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Cast

Witch Morella:	A vengeful sorceress whose dark magic is matched only by her love of causing misery
Wizard Zarvax:	A ruthless wizard obsessed with domination and destruction, of pantoland, works with Morella
Fairy Nuff:	A once-glorious fairy now past her prime, doing her best to defend Pantoland even though her wand and perhaps she herself isn't quite up to the job
Goblin 1:	As implied - A dim-witted but eager goblin henchman, loyally doing the dirty work for Zarvax and Morella.
Goblin: 2:	As implied - A dim-witted but eager goblin henchman, loyally doing the dirty work for Zarvax and Morella.
Bill:	A cheeky, lovable comic jester, forever joking and always standing by his friend Kitty
Kitty:	The royal housekeeper with a big heart, a bigger personality, and an undeniable soft spot for the Captain
Ivor Itch:	A sharp-tongued, quick-thinking handyman whose dry humour makes him the perfect partner to Bill.
King Harold:	A tight-fisted monarch who rules Pantoland in theory, but in practice is firmly under Queen Mary's thumb.
Queen Mary:	A lovable Queen, who only wants the best for pantoland, and a big party, keeps King Harold firmly under control
Captain:	As implied - Traditional soldier, who is loyal to the kingdom, and unfortunately becomes the romantic interest of Kitty
Guard:	Typical palace guard - A few lines in act one
Herald:	Supposed to provide the grand fanfare for every royal entrance, but he can never resist trying to take things a step further
Prince Arthur:	One scene only - could double with a chorus role
Prince Ivan:	One scene only - could double with a chorus role
Prince Charming:	One scene only - could double with a chorus role
Villager 1:	Chorus role - Has a few lines
Villager 2:	Chorus role - Has a few lines
Villager 3:	Chorus role - Has a few lines
Sagewood:	A wise old oak tree - could double with a chorus role - has a few lines
Ghost (small):	As implied - One scene only - could double with a chorus role
Ghost (medium):	As implied - One scene only - could double with a chorus role
Ghost (Large):	As implied - One scene only - could double with a chorus role

Synopsis of scenes

Act 1

Introduction

Scene 1	Palace garden
Scene 2	Palace garden
Scene 3	The wild woods
Scene 4	The enchanted woods
Scene 5A	room at the Palace

Act 2

Scene 1	The village square
Scene 2	Edge of The Forest of Veiled Thorns
Scene 3	Deep in the Forest of Veiled Thorns
Scene 4	Lost in the Forest of Veiled Thorns
Scene 5	The mystic tower

Songs

All: musical selections included in this script are provided as recommendations only and may be substituted at the discretion of the producing company. The author does not claim ownership of the copyright in any referenced songs. The producing company is solely responsible for obtaining all required licences and clearances for public performance, recording, or broadcast.

The script is designed to be adaptable for groups of all sizes and experience levels.

All: roles are gender flexible and open to interpretation. Companies should feel free to cast in whatever way best suits their performers. Characters may be removed, doubled, or added if required, and I'm very happy to support any adjustments that help the production run smoothly.

SJB scripts will be happy to help with any changes that are required to make this script work for your company

Introduction – Front of tabs

Fairy Nuff: Once in a kingdom, enchantingly bright, where chuckles and wonder dance into the light, magic awakens the moment you grin and joy, like a blossom, unfurls from within.

Each breath in the breeze hums a story brand new, with glitter that shimmers in all that you do. A star-sparkling tickle runs wild through your hair, and sweet little whispers of mischief float there.

But “where”, you might ponder, “does such marvel stand?” Just close your eyes, let the giggles expand. Then whoosh! In a heartbeat, you’re whisked far away, to feel the pure magic of Pantoland today.

PantoScripts Perusal

Scene One – Palace Garden

(Upbeat **Chorus song #1 (Upbeat)**– Party scene, various Panto characters, Banner “Annual Pantoland Friendship Festival” – LFX – A large well-lit star, that can be dimmed hung above the stage

(After approx. 20 seconds of scene – SFX – Thunder / storm LFX – Lightning, LFX – stage grows dark, cast freeze, black drop curtain is dropped, SFX – Thunder / storm LFX – Lightning – **Music #1 Dramatic**)

(Enter SL – Wicked Witch Morella (With wand) and SR Evil Wizard Zarvax (With staff) as dialogue is spoken, they slowly move towards centre stage)

Morella: Creatures of {Town}, heed our call, we come tonight to cast you all into despair.

Zarvax: Evil prowls these streets as the thunder roars.

(SFX – Thunder)

Morella: Tremble in your bones, quiver with dread, for as we near, terror will spread.

(LFX – Lightning)

Zarvax: Flee while you can, run swiftly, don't stand and fight, for evil prowls the town tonight.

(At this point they meet centre stage and in unison Morella waves her wand and Zarvax bangs his staff on the floor – (SFX – Thunder / storm LFX – Lightning)

Morella: Wasn't it just delightful? Watching those simple – hearted villagers revelling in their charming naïve celebration, blissfully ignorant of the shadows lurking in their picturesque world...Well no more after tonight, you need to tremble, mere mortals, in the presence of the two greatest villains ever to appear. My name is wicked witch Morella, Queen of the Night, Ruler of the Dark Forest, and black hearted Sorceress without compare!

Zarvax: And I am the dark lord, the evil wizard, Zarvax, the Vicious! King of the Tangled Wood; evil beyond belief – and also unbelievably bad!

Morella: For over half a century, this quaint small town has been permitted to bask in its annual fairytale; always finishing with the villain meeting their end.

Zarvax: But perhaps it's time for a twist in the tale, where the so-called 'baddy' finally has their moment of triumph instead. At the recent annual meeting of panto villains, the Society of insidious ne'er – do – wells and international scoundrels, tricksters, and evil rascals.

Morella: Or SINISTER for short.

Zarvax: It was decided, by unanimous vote, that this annual happiness must stop. All those who are in SINISTER will reign supreme over all of Pantoland for evermore **(Evil laugh)**

Morella: We are here tonight to **(Gesture with hand)** to squeeze the happiness from this land and diminish the spirit of {Town} panto forever **(Points to star)** See, it is shining bright above you, as it has done for many years...But when that star is extinguished tonight, there will be no more happy endings for anyone!!!!

Zarvax: Our wicked goal is to lay waste to Pantoland; transforming it into a scorched, desolate wasteland, where joy is banished...Panto villains shall reign freely, with not a happy face in sight..... Forevermore!!!! **(Evil laugh)**

Morella: The first part of our plan is already in action. Soon we shall hear news of its success.

(Enter – Goblin 1 and 2 from auditorium)

Morella: Look, here come our partners in evil.

Goblin 1: It's this way, precious.

Goblin 2: No, no, it's not!

Goblin 1: How do you know?

Goblin 2: I've got it on Google maps.

Goblin 1: Yesss, but is the phone up the right way, my precious?

Goblin 2: No worries, no worries, panic over, there they are.

(The Goblins edge onto the stage one by one, peering out nervously before shuffling into position)

Morella: Where have you been? You're late!

Goblin 1: Well it's a bit of a long story, you see. Varnak, here, managed to get us lost coming out of the twisted forest, and then would you believe....

Zarvax: **(Interrupting and angry)** ENOUGH, have you completed the first part of the plan?

Goblin 2: Yesss, your evilness, all is done, every good fairy....

Goblin 1: and Fairy Godmother.

Goblin 2: In all Pantoland, have been captured. Wands broken, wings tied, and spell books... destroyed,

Morella: And where are they now?

Goblin 1: All safely in Wraithwood forest.

Goblin 2: A forest, perpetually cloaked in twilight, where the trees whisper forgotten curses, and spectral figures flit among the gnarled roots.

Goblin 1: There is no escape from there.

(At this point LFX – The spirit of {Town} panto flickers, and dims)

Zarvax: Excellent work! Now onto the next part of the plan; to rid Pantoland of all it's heroes!

(Enter – Fairy Nuff)

Fairy Nuff: I thought I sensed a dark presence looming over Pantoland.

Morella: **(Sarcastically)** Who are you? And more importantly... what are you?
(Laughs)

Fairy Nuff:: I am Fairy Nuff! And I've heard your plan and I am telling you that I am here to stop you **(She starts looking around her costume)**
Where did I put my wand again? Oh, bother.... There it is **(It's tucked in her waist band she aims her wand)** Now, be gone evil beings!

(SFX – Spluttering sound and wand goes limp)

Zarvax: **(Laughing)** Is that the best you've got?

Morella: **(To Goblins)** I thought you had captured all the fairies?

Goblin 1: We thought we had.

Zarvax: **(Dismissive)** Oh, leave that one. She's no danger to anyone anymore..... well past her prime **(He barges past Fairy Nuff with a sneer)** Come along! We feast, we frolic, and above all... we REST. Because tomorrow... oh yes... tomorrow..... it ALL begins! **(Evil laugh – SFX – thunder)**

(Morella and the Goblins push past Fairy Nuff and exit)

Fairy Nuff: **(In a panic)** Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear, I must get to the King and let him know what's happening **(As she exits)** oh dear, oh dear. (Blackout)

Scene Two – Palace Garden

(The black drop cloth is raised, LFX – Full lights – continue into Chorus song #1 (Upbeat) where it had stopped at the start of last scene)

Bill: ***(Runs onstage at the end of the song)*** Hello everyone... oh no, no, no – that wasn't very friendly, was it? You can do better than that! ***(Runs off, then immediately back on)*** HELLO EVERYONE! Come on you can do it louder than that, I'll never hear you from the bar... ***(Correcting)*** I mean back stage, Let's try once more.. ***(Runs off, then immediately back on)*** HELLO EVERYONE!... Ahh, that's much better. Are you happy? ***(Hopes they shout yes)*** Wonderful! You're all looking so cheerful! You are perfect for today's celebrations.

Let me introduce myself. I'm Bill, the court jester here at King Harold and Queen Mary's palace. And today is a special day... because it's the Annual Pantoland Friendship Festival! That's right, the one day of the year when everyone in Pantoland comes together to celebrate kindness and joy...and to pretend we all get along! And..... I'll let you in on a little secret... we're having a HUGE party later. But I can't celebrate on my own! That would be a very lonely festival. So now that we're all friends, why don't you share the happiness with me?

Here's how it works; whenever I come on stage, I'll shout "Happy Friends!" And you shout back "We're Happy, Bill!" Let's try it! ***(Runs off, runs back on, shouts the call)*** Brilliant! Absolutely brilliant. If you keep that up, this is going to be the friendliest, happiest, silliest festival that Pantoland has ever seen.

(Enter – Kitty carrying a clipboard)

Kitty: There you are Bill! I've been looking everywhere for you.... and what's all that noise about? It sounds like a tin of marbles in a washing machine! I don't know why you are so happy; we have got so much to do before tomorrow's party, and I've still not found our new handyman to help with all the work.

Bill: That noise is my new friends, and that's why I'm happy! I've lots of new friends ***(Shouts)*** "Happy Friends."

Kitty: New Friends?

Bill: Yes, out here ***(He points to the audience)***

Kitty: Oooh, where did that lot come from? ***(To Bill)*** what time did you write on the invites?? They are here far too early!!

Bill: They're here to watch the Pantomime.

Kitty: Honestly, if I'd known this many of you were popping in, I'd have nipped down to the {*Local hairdressers and beauty salon*} You to make myself halfway presentable... **(Dropping to a bashful mumble)**... you know I get all flustered when there's a crowd!

Bill: That's not what the Palace guard told me!

Kitty: I don't know what you mean.... Which one?

Bill: Why? How many do you know?

Kitty: Oh, I know the tall one....and the short one...and the blonde one, the dark one, the ginger one, the fat one, the thin one, the bald one, the....

Bill: **(Interrupting)** So it is safe to say - you know them all!

Kitty: I've got more admirers than I've got Tupperware lids, and that's saying something. I can't help it; I am a very friendly woman.

Bill: Yes, so it seems, look just say hello to my new friends, say hello to the Boys and

Kitty: **(Flirting)** Hello Boys!

Bill: Kitty, you're supposed to be saying hello to the boys and girls.

Kitty: I was talking to the BIG Boys... especially him down there.... you look a bit fed up dear; shall I come down and cheer you up? **(She goes to leave the stage)**

Bill: Kitty! **(He pulls Kitty back)** why don't you introduce yourself to ALL the nice people out there?

Kitty: **(To the audience, brightly)** My name is Kitty Gertrude Tallulah Hyacinth Daisy-Chain Gregory Litter. Yes, it's a mouthful, but it keeps me warm in winter. I'm the housekeeper, here at the Royal Palace for King Harold and Queen Mary. She's an absolute darling... and he's as tight as a duck's...well, you know. And, of course, like all good panto dames, I'm a widow.

My first husband died very suddenly... **(Audience argh)** It's all right though, I was acquitted! The moment I met my second husband, I knew he was a keeper... he was wearing enormous gloves. **(Softening, a little sad)** I do miss him, bless him. He was ever so poorly. I used to rub grease all over his back to make him feel better.

Bill: What happened?

Kitty: **(Crying)** He went downhill fast! I put an advert in the {Local magazine} advertising for a husband. I had hundreds of replies all saying.... you can have mine! **(To audience)** I could really do with a bit of spontaneous sympathy right now, **(Encourages the audience)** I've seen more enthusiasm at a snail race! I said, I could do with a bit of spontaneous sympathy. **(Hope audience react)** Come on, it's not like you haven't been to a panto before! I could do with a bit of spontaneous sympathy! **(Hope audience react)** That's more like it. **(Drying eyes with hanky, she takes a mirror from her bag)** I hope I've not ruined my make up **(She looks into the mirror)** argh... **(Hands mirror to Bill)** who's that?

Bill: **(Looking into it)** Me

Kitty: Thank heavens for that...I thought it was me! **(Snatches mirror back and stuffs it into her pocket)** Any way have you checked they are all here, you know the issues we had last night {Afternoon} **(To audience)** Is there anyone not arrived yet? If you're not here put your hand up.

Bill: If there are any late comers they'll open the doors for them when there's a quiet moment.

Kitty: You should never open the doors after we've started.

Bill: Because it disturbs the actors?

Kitty: No, because we must never give them the opportunity to leave.

Bill: Shouldn't you be interviewing more candidates for the handyman position?

Kitty: There's none left, I have interviewed them all, none had the attributes I was looking for.

Bill: None? surely one must have had the right attributes!

Kitty: No, they just did not have the X factor.

Bill: X factor, you are looking for handymen - not the next Taylor Swift

(Enter - Ivor Itch)

Ivor: **(To Kitty)** Excuse me

Kitty: Yes, how can I help?

Ivor: I'm here for the Handyman job.

Kitty: You're late, we have finished interviewing, sorry.

Bill: Come on Kitty, give him chance, the Queen is going to expect you to have a handyman when she sees you later **(To audience)** What do you think?
(Audience "Yes")

Kitty: Alright **(Refers to clipboard)** Name?

Ivor: Ivor Itch

Kitty: Well scratch it.

Ivor: Sorry?

Kitty: Scratch it, then introduce yourself.

Ivor: **(Looks confused, bows)** Ivor Itch

Kitty: **(Annoyed)** How many times do I have to tell you, Scratch it.

Ivor: **(Confused)** What?

Kitty: **(Frustrated)** Whatever itches, just scratch it.

Ivor: **(Frustrated)** Nothing itches, I'm Ivor itch.

Kitty: Right, let's start again shall we, do you, or do you not have an itch

Ivor: NO, my NAME is Ivor Itch

Kitty: Well why didn't you say that at the start? **(Refers to clipboard)** Can you do carpentry?

Ivor: No

Kitty: **(Marks clip board)** What about plumbing?

Ivor: No

Kitty: Decorating?

Ivor: No

Kitty: Brick layering?

Ivor: No

Kitty: **(Confused)** I'm sorry, what makes you handy men?

Ivor: I only live around the corner!

Kitty: What about your own transport?

Ivor: **(Indicates legs)** Da-dah!

Kitty: Can you perform under pressure?

Ivor: No, but I do a mean bohemian Rhapsody

Kitty: **(Places a large cross on the sheet on the clip board)** What is your greatest strength?

Ivor: I can do a great impression of a Barn Owl, listen **(He attempts an unbelievably bad impression of a Barn Owl)**

Kitty: **(Not convinced)** I'm not sure.....we are looking for someone responsible.

Ivor: Then I'm your man! The last place I worked at burnt down and they thought...**(Proudly)** I was responsible.

(Enter - Herald, proudly blasting a grand Fanfare SFX... which suddenly slides into an over-the-top SFX - JAZZ TRUMPET RIFF. Enter King, Queen, Captain of the Guard and Guard, all baffled.)

Captain: **(Snatches the trumpet mid-riff, wags a finger like scolding a naughty puppy)** How many times have I told you **(Hands the trumpet back, pointedly)** Fanfare first... jazz never.

(Herald stands looking rejected)

Bill: **(To Kitty)** What are you going to do? The King and Queen are expecting you to have hired handymen. If you haven't you'll be in trouble!

Kitty: **(She looks concerned - Aside to Ivor)** Right - you are hired. **(To the palace guard and Herald)** Well hello boys, see you later at the Angel for our usual game of cards?

Herald: Yer, usual time

Kitty: **(To guard as she runs her hand up his arm)** And are you up for it?

Captain: Kitty, will you please leave my privates alone, **(Hopefully there will be an audience reaction, he corrects himself)** I mean my guards.

Kitty: **(To audience if they react)** We know what sort of audience we've got in here tonight; I bet you've only come in for a warm

Queen: Well Kitty, how have the interviews for the Royal Handymen gone?

Kitty: *(Introducing Ivor)* Very well your Majesty. Let me introduce our new handyman.

Ivor: *(Bows convincingly)* Your Majesties, Ivor Itch

King: *(Disgusted and backing away)* Well don't tell us about it, scratch it.

Kitty: *(Trying to correct the King)* No, Ivor Itch

King: Don't you start Kitty, *(Concerned)* is there some kind of infection going around?

Kitty: *(Correcting the King)* No, his NAME is Ivor Itch

King: Oh I see, why didn't you say so?

Captain: *(To Guard and Herald)* Right you two, escort him to the workshops and his quarters.

Guard: Yes sir *(To Ivor)* Come on you *(He escorts him off stage, followed by Herald)*

Queen: And now we can get on with the final preparations for the biggest party Pantoland has ever seen! Have you come up with a theme yet?

Kitty: It's going to be spaced themed.

King: How do you organise a space party?

Kitty: You planet *{Plan It}* - *(To Audience)* The jokes don't get any better I'm afraid, there's twenty-nine minutes of this gold, stretched over two hours!

Queen: Let's keep it a bit more traditional? How are we going to advertise this party?

King: Do we have to advertise? Can't we just put a nice little cheap advert on a card in the post office window or a poster on the Town council notice board *(Pause)* *{Local Shop}* have a nice little board you can put a card on, and it's free!

Queen: Don't be ridiculous Harold! No - we need banners, posters, TV advertising.

King: That sounds expensive

Queen: Stop being a Skinflint dear.

King: Money doesn't grow on tree's you know.

Queen: So you say, with alarming regularity. Kitty don't forget to have the Ball room decorated.

King: **(Panic)** But....

Queen: No buts Harold! Everything has got to be right for the biggest party Pantoland has ever seen... **(Fixing him with a stare)** And you will gladly foot the bill...

King: **(Timidly)** Yes dear

Queen: Now food, it must come from Waitrose

Bill: What's Waitrose

Queen: It's where you go to see how much things in Aldi will be in 5 years' time

King: **(To Bill)** I hope you have some new jokes for the party?

Bill: Yes, your Majesty, they'll knock your socks off, shall I tell you one now?

King: **(Begrudgingly)** If you must

Bill: How does a penguin build its house?... Igloos it together.... Do you want to hear another?

Queen: **(Looking across at the King and seeing his stony face)** No that's ok Bill, we'll look forward to hearing those later, **(To King)** Won't we my dear?

King: **(Trying to sound pleased)** Oh yes, as long as it's all done with the utmost taste! We don't want anything too risqué, do we?

Queen: **(Disappointed)** No dear **(To Bill)** Later - when he's a bit squiffy!

Captain: Your Majesty, we must proceed to the ballroom to ensure it is ready for the party. Time is of the essence, and we must make sure everything is in perfect order.

King: Well - lead on Captain...we'll see you later Kitty **(The King, Queen exit, followed by the captain)**

Kitty: **(To Captain as he walks past in a flirting way)** Are you up for a game of cards tonight? You can play with my deck anytime!

Captain: **(Stopping and looking worried)** Argh..... yes Kitty **(He speeds up to exit)**

Kitty: **(Pulling the Captain back)** And how do you like my new tow truck dress; I put it on especially for you.

Captain: **(He stops)** Tow truck dress?

Kitty: **(Flirting)** Yes, I always pull in it.

(The captain makes a quick exit)

Bill: You really like the captain don't you Kitty?

Kitty: I do...the trouble is he doesn't like me back... nor my front either... I'll have you know the other night I was changing into my nightie, and I caught him peering in through the window, bold as brass he was, then he came and knocked at my door.

Bill: Whatever did he say?

Kitty: He asked me to close the curtains!!! Time Bill – time – he'll have to give in eventually; how can any man continue to resist a woman like me? I've still got it; the trouble is the captain doesn't want it!!

SONG #2 – Dame (Trying to catch her man)

Bill: You know what they say, there's plenty more men in the sea

Kitty: That may be the case, but my bait isn't as fresh as it used to be... Look – I can't stand here talking all day, I'm so busy I haven't even got time to scratch my own ar.... {arse} arm. I need to get the washing hung out; the Kings underwear won't dry themselves you know.

Bill: Right, I'll be off then, better practice my jokes for the party **(Goes to exit)**

Kitty: **(Pulling Bill back)** Oh no you're not! You're going to give me a hand to hang this washing out. With the party coming up soon, we all need to pull our weight!

Bill: **(Aside to audience, pointing to Kitty)** Some of us have more weight than others to pull!

Kitty: **(Offended)** What are you implying?

Bill: Well you're not exactly slimmer of the year, are you?

Kitty: I'll have you know I suffer from water retention.

Bill: More like cake retention!

Kitty: Actually I do a lot of exercise. I'm in peak condition. I like to do something between a lunge and a crunch. It's called lunch.... **(Threatening)** and if you wish to see the end of this panto, I wouldn't say another word Fetch Ivor...he can help as well.

(Bill exits, and Kitty fetches a washing basket with folded laundry, washing line, pegs, and a bag of sweets – Enter Bill and Ivor)

Bill: **(To audience)** "Happy Friends"

Kitty: I need you two to put up my washing line up so I can hang out the Royal washing **(She hands Bill the washing line and gives Ivor the loose end – To Ivor)** Right, you hold that up – go as far as you can and tie the line to a tree **(To Bill)** You stand here and unwind the line as he goes. Can you manage that?

Bill / Ivor Yes, we can

(Ivor backs Offstage – SR holding the line high, while Bill unravels it. Kitty calls out instructions such as "Keep going" "No further". Stage crew take hold of the line and continue to collect it as Bill unravels it. After a moment Ivor appears on Onstage – SL holding a length of line and backs into Bill, Bill and Kitty both jump)

Kitty: **(To Ivor)** What are you doing?

Ivor: That was a really long line!

Bill: It was a bit!

Kitty: **(Discarding both ends of the line Offstage)** Honestly, if you need anything doing around here, you have to do it yourself! **(She exits and pulls a line across the stage (SR) to (SL). On one end of the line is a small pair of pants labelled "The Kings smalls" and a larger pair of Long Johns labelled "Kings bigs")** Now Ivor, I want you to take them down and fold them. Bill, you pass me the stuff in the basket and I'll peg it out. We'll soon get this done!

Ivor: Off the line and fold them **(He mimes this)**

Bill: Pass stuff from basket **(He mimes this)**

Kitty: **(Putting her hand in the peg basket, she pulls out some sweets)** Oh look – what are these doing in here?

Bill: **(Grabbing sweets)** Hands off...that's my secret sweetie cupboard. If the stage crew sniff these out, they'll be gone faster than my dignity in a quick-change. **(Aside to the audience, thinking)** But you look like a trustworthy bunch. Go on then, I'll share them with my new friends. Ivor, give us a hand, will you? **(They hand out sweets)**

Kitty: Right, now that nonsense is over, do you know what you're doing?

Ivor: Off the line and fold them **(He mimes this)**

Bill: Pass stuff from basket **(He mimes this)**

Kitty: Well, what are we waiting for? Let's get on with it.

(Ivor, one at a time he unpegs the pants shakes them and folds them and puts them in the basket, at the same time Bill takes stuff out of the basket, shakes it and hands it to Kitty who pegs it on the line, this pattern continues with increasing speed until the end of the line is reached, Kitty picks up the basket and runs back to the other end to start again, Bill and Ivor follow, after an item or two, Kitty stops)

Kitty: STOP!!!! What is going on?

Bill: I'm passing you the washing to hang out.

Ivor: And I'm taking it down and folding it, just like you said.

Kitty: You fools **(As she shouts, she grabs an item from the basket, but unknowingly grabs Bill by the sleeve and pegs him to the line, pegging along the sleeve and across the other sleeve)** We'll be here all day at this rate, I don't have time to waste, I've got a lot to do to get ready for our special guest. **(She notices Bill is hanging on the line)** And what on earth are you doing?

Bill: Oh, just hanging around.

Kitty: Will you pair stop messing about **(She goes to grab another item from the basket but unknowingly grabs Ivor by the sleeve and pegs him to the line, pegging along the sleeve and across the other sleeve)** I'm starting to wish I hadn't hired you **(She notices Ivor on the line)** Oh - not you as well? **(She grabs the basket and washing)** Right, this lot is going in the tumble dryer!

(She storms off, Bill and Ivor try and unpeg themselves, unsuccessfully)

Kitty: **(Marches back on)** Hang on - I've just remembered electricity hasn't been invented yet!

(Enter - Fairy Nuff all upset and, in a panic - Throughout the next dialogue Bill and Ivor stay attached to the line)

Fairy Nuff: Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear, whatever shall we do?

Kitty: What on earth is the matter, Fairy Nuff?

Fairy Nuff: Oh dear, oh dear, fetch the King and Queen! It's a disaster - Pantoland is doomed!

(Enter - Herald, proudly blasting a grand Fanfare SFX... followed by a smug little jazz lick SFX he thinks he can get away with. Enter King, Queen, Captain of the Guard)

Captain: **(To Herald, deadpan)** I heard that.

Herald: No you didn't.

(The captain gives him a pointed "I'm watching you" gesture, then silently orders him off. The Herald slinks away, shoulders drooping.)

King: What is all this commotion?

Fairy Nuff: Oh dear, oh dear, what are we to do?

Queen: Now calm down, and tell me what's wrong

Fairy Nuff: The worst thing ever...

King: **(Panics)** Have all my money bags gone missing?

Queen: It's not all about money you know.

King: Well, money doesn't grow on trees.

Kitty: Now come on Fairy Nuff, calm down, and tell us.

Fairy Nuff: **(Dramatic)** Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear, I fear our idyllic lives are ending; the air is thick with malevolence, and evil is afoot.

Queen: What **do you** mean?

Fairy Nuff: Evil has descended on the land. A wicked witch called Morella, and a Wizard called Zarvax have been unleashed by the shadowy forces of SINISTER! And their evil is spreading fast!

Everyone: NOT SINISTER **(SFX - Dramatic music)**

Fairy Nuff: They have arrived with the intent to drain all joy from this land, and to forever diminish the spirit of the {Town} pantomime. All the good fairies and godmothers have already fallen into their grasp! And now they are setting their sights on our heroes. I have a terrible foreboding over this

(They all look up at the spirit of {Town} panto)

Bill: What's a boding?

Ivor: I don't know, but she's got four!

Queen: **(To Captain)** Dispatch the guard to locate the Pantoland heroes and escort them back to the Palace.

Captain: **(Heroically)** Fear not, for I shall lead the charge! With courage in our hearts and determination in our steps, we shall escort the heroes of Pantoland back to the palace.

Kitty: **(Grabbing Captain by the arm, Seductively)** Is it just me, or did it get a lot more heroic in here? It must be you **(The captain pulls away)**

King: And Captain

Captain: Yes

King: No overtime

Queen: Our land is in peril, and you are worried about money.

King: Well money doesn't....

Everyone: **(Interrupting)** Grow on trees.

Kitty: **(To Captain, as she produces a piece of mistletoe)** Oh look what I've found left over from Christmas. Would you kiss me under the mistletoe? it will bring you luck!

Captain: I wouldn't kiss you under a general anaesthetic.

(Exit - Captain)

King: There, now that's settled, I must be off to my counting house.

Queen: Why? Do the money tree's need pruning? No Harold, you are coming with me; we need to prepare for this evil. **(Grabs his arm)** Kitty, Fairy Nuff, we may need your help **(They exit)**

Bill: Hello, what about us?

Ivor: Don't leave us here!

(LFX - Black out)

Scene Three – The Wild Woods

(Front of tabs – SFX Owl hooting – Road sign "Seven dwarfs house, Cinderella's Castle, The Bean stalk, Rapunzel's tower")

(Enter – Prince Arthur, Prince Ivan, and Prince Charming it appears they are pushing through a crowd of people)

Arthur: Now, come on everyone, out of the way!

Ivan: Yes, let the real heroes through.

(They stop centre stage)

Charming: **(Looking around)** So ... this is the place?

Arthur: **(Looking at his phone)** Yes, this is where "what 3 words" brings us.

Ivan: There doesn't seem to be anything here. Are you sure?

Arthur: **(Reading phone)** Yes, the message on the Heroes WhatsApp group said "In the wood, where magic dances with reality, where dragons guard forgotten secrets, and where damsels await their champions, we present an extraordinary opportunity to rescue the fairest of all maidens and slay the mightiest of dragons" – hash tag heroes, hash tag dragon slayer

Charming: Well, I can't see any fair maiden or dragon.

(There is commotion off stage)

Ivan: **(To off stage)** You'll just have to wait... yes... we know there is no damsel or dragon.

Arthur: **(Looking off stage)** It looks like every hero in Pantoland has turned up.

Charming: **(Looking off stage)** Let's see, Aladdin – with that magic carpet of his

Ivan: I can't see how that's going to stop a dragon! Who else?

Charming: Oh, lots and lots ! Robin Hood... Dick Whittington and his cat... Peter Pan... Puss in Boots, very stylish footwear and... him. You know, the one who chopped down the beanstalk?

Arthur: **(Condescending)** Jack!

Charming: That's the fella.

Ivan: Shall we wait a few minutes?

Arthur: No harm I suppose **(To Charming)** How's your Cinderella?

Charming: She's still got the best feet in Pantoland and I should know. I'm considered a bit of an expert on girl's feet... and hers are the best!

Ivan: I suppose you would be an expert, after trying that glass slipper onhow many feet?

Charming: Two thousand one hundred and ten! And how is Sleeping Beauty?

Ivan: I tell you, it's hard to believe she's a hundred and seventeen years old! Although she is still scared of sharp objects. She won't sew on a button or chop an onion, in case she pricks herself. **(To Arthur)** How's Snow White?

Arthur: Still avoiding apples!!

Ivan: I've never really understood why **you** are a hero..... Me – well, I had to hack my way through one hundred years' worth of brambles and tree's.

Arthur: **(Incensed)** What do you mean? I took my life in my own hands, I did!

Charming: Oh yeah, fighting off seven vicious three-foot dwarves! And two, I would remind you, were called Sleepy and Dopey! And then kissing Snow White, who had a bit of an apple stuck in her throat!

(SFX – Thunder / storm LFX – Lightning, stage grows dark, Enter – Morella, Zarvax and Goblins)

Morella: **(Audience "Boo")** Will you stop this pathetic booing, look at you, you bunch of peasants.

Charming: I say, my good women, you can't speak to these people like that! Who do you think you are?

Morella: I am the wicked witch Morella, Queen of the Night, Ruler of the Forest, and black hearted Sorceress, without compare!

Zarvax: And I am the dark lord, the evil wizard, Zarvax, the Vicious! King of the Tangled Wood; evil beyond belief...and also very bad!

Goblin 1: They are the most vicious, vile, wicked, repulsive, magnificent Panto villain's ever to walk this planet!

Ivan: **(Nonchalant)** Well, nice to meet you. Now why don't you jog on...we've got a dragon to fight.

Zarvax: How dare you speak to us like that!

Goblin 2: Do you know the power you are foolish enough to challenge

Arthur: I am Prince Arthur of the mountains of myths and legends; I will never bow before you, or anyone else **(Draws his sword)**

van: I am Prince Ivan, rescuer of Sleeping beauty and dragon slaying champion, five years running. I too will never bow **(Draws his sword)**

Charming: I am Prince charming **(Draws his sword, speaks softly)** and I try shoes on girls.

Morella: Sorry? Speak up!

Zarvax: I think he said that he tries on shoes for girls.

(Morella and the Goblins laugh)

Morella: These are the best heroes Pantoland has to offer? **(Laughs)** This is going to be much easier than we thought!, Zarvax, my dear friend, would you like to do the honours?

Zarvax: **(He bangs his staff on the ground)** Metallicus begonus! **(SFX - Thunder)**

(All the heroes drop their swords; they look shocked and bend down to pick them up)

Morella: **(Waving her wand)** Petrification humani **(LFX - Flash of thunder)**

(The heroes are frozen)

Zarvax: **(To Goblins)** Right, my little ones, take them away to Wraithwood Hollow, and tie them up.

(The Goblins push and shove the heroes off stage)

Morella: These people are just so easy to defeat, **(Audience Oh No we're not etc)** You are worthless and insignificant! I just hate all of you!

Zarvax: I've tried to tolerate people... truly I have... but then they insist on talking... breathing... existing. Ugh!"

SONG #3 – Zarvax / Morella (About hate of people)

Morella: Well Zarvax, that was easy **(At this point LFX - The spirit of {Town} panto flickers, and dims)** See the spirit of Panto dims even more **(Evil cackle)**

(SFX - Mobile phone rings – with appropriate ring tone)

Morella: **(To Zarvax)** Who's that calling you at work?

Zarvax: **(Taking out mobile phone, he looks at it)** It's that Abanazar again.

Morella: Now what does he want?

Zarvax: **(Answers phone)** Hello Naza my old friend, **(Pause)** yes **(Pause)** No...we have not forgotten **(Pause)** yes, make sure the genie is in the lamp before we bring it to you **(Pause, sigh)** No **(Pause)** Destroy Widow Twankeys laundry, yes, we remember **(Morella taps him on the shoulder and taps her watch)** Look, Naza – I've got to go **(Pause)** Yes, we'll catch up when we're back. Love to the wife and kids **(He hangs up)**

Morella: Now to the enchanted woods, to capture all the unicorns **(Evil laugh)**

PantoScripts Perusal

Scene Four – The Enchanted woods.

(Full stage – A bright stage, colour full tree's / foliage) **Chorus – Unicorns OR Goblins chasing them** at the end of the dance the unicorns are captured – *SFX – Thunderstorm LFX – Lightning, stage grows dark, enter Morella and Zarvax who bangs his staff – SFX – Thunder, unseen Fairy Nuff is watching from the wings)*

Morella: **(To Goblins)** Excellent work my malevolent little creatures! Now take them to Wraithwood Hollow, and tie them to a tree; nice and tight

Goblin 1: Yes, your greatness

(Exit – The Goblins with the unicorns)

Zarvax: This is too easy **(SFX – The spirit of {Town} panto flickers, and dims)** See the spirit of Panto dims even more **(Evil laugh)**

Morella: And now for the last part of the plan; to steal and destroy the golden pencil of the storyteller

(LFX – Lights dim – SFX – Dramatic music)

Zarvax: And once that is destroyed, the spirit of {Town} will be diminished for evermore **(Evil Laugh)**

Morella: And we will have achieved Pantoland domination for SINISTER **(Evil Cackle)**. I sense goodness **(Menacingly sniffs the air)** I sense someone is watching us **(To audience)** Is there someone watching us? **(Fairy Nuff should encourage audience to say No)**

(Goblin 2 creeps up behind Fairy Nuff and grabs her, Goblin 1 runs across to help as they drag her onto the stage) – Drop black curtain.

Goblin 2: Yesss, preciousssss. We caughts you, my sweet fairy, your light won't escape us now! No.....no.....

Goblin 1: Your magic is ours, yesss, all ours

Zarvax: It's that old washed-up fairy again!

Fairy Nuff: **(She waves her wand)** Abracadabra! **(Turns her wand into a bouquet of flowers)** Oops, wrong incantation...again!

Morella: Cease this folly! You will never defeat us! And we are certainly unafraid of you. Your days of protecting Pantoland finished years ago! You should leave it to the young fairies **(Pause)** Oh wait! You can't, because we have them all **(Evil Laugh)**