



Hansel & Gretel

by Helen Gard

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15 The Metro Centre
Peterborough PE2 7UH
Telephone: 01733 374790
Fax: 01733 237286
Email: info@noda.org.uk
www.noda.org.uk

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Hansel and Gretel - Cast list

Hansel	Child of Walter -Male
Gretel	Child of Walter - Female
Walter Melon	Father of Hansel and Gretel - Male
Beatrice (Bea)Sting	Second wife to Walter and evil stepmother - Female
Fanny Fawcett	The Dame - Male
Fairy Willow Wonder-Wand	The Good Fairy - Female
Fairy Moonbeam	Child - Female
Fairy Dewdrop	Child - Female
Fairy waterlily	Child - Female
Belladonna Nightshade	The Evil Witch - Female
Coppit	Comedy character - Male
Hatchet	Comedy character - Male
Joe King	Plant in audience - Small part also chorus
Villagers	3 with speaking parts - chorus
Chorus (villagers)	Male or Female and as many as available

The songs in this script are suggestions only and can be changed as necessary.

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Hansel and Gretel

Epilogue

*Stage in darkness spot light on the fairy. Fairy Willow Wonder-spell - stage right and Belladonna Nightshade enters stage left.
Fairy addresses the audience...*

Fairy Willow Wonder-Wand:

The time has come to tell a story
Of wickedness but final glory.
Of a sorry man who's simple and weak,
And two poor children, lost and meek.
A witch as evil as can be
A kindly fairy ...well that's me...
My name is Willow Wonder-Spell
I'm good at magic as you can tell.

Enter witch stage left with crash of thunder and some lightning

Witch Belladonna Nightshade:

What lies and nonsense you do speak
I'll have you know that she's a sneak,
She pokes her nose in everywhere,
Meddles and fusses without a care.
She thinks that she will make things good
But I'm in charge in this dark wood.
Belladonna Nightshade is *my* name,
Casting great spells is my fame.

Fairy Willow Wonder-Wand:

But you're just evil all the time,
And old - but *I* am in my prime.

Witch Belladonna Nightshade:

I'm not old, you *always* lie!
If you're younger than me then pigs can fly!

Fairy Willow Wonder- Wand:

Well, watch our panto and we shall see,

Whether the audience agrees with me.
My goodness will come shining through
I'll waste no time arguing with you.

Exit Fairy Willow --- tinkling sound every time she enters or exits

Witch Belladonna Nightshade:

Well I'll be damned, she's so big headed!
Ha! it's me not her that's to be dreaded.
I'm pretty clever, *she's* cuckoo,
I think you'll appreciate *my* value.
Let's start the panto without further ado.

Brief black out - Belladonna exits with a flourish stage left and crash of thunder

Fairy Willow Wonder-Spell enters quickly stage right- tinkling sound

Fairy Willow Wonder-Wand:

Yes! Willow Wonder-Wand to the rescue!

Lights go down quickly and we hear Belladonna cursing under her breath as both exit.

Lights back up and willow pops back in...

FairyW: Oh, and before I forget, can you boo and hiss every time you see Belladonna Nightshade? Go on have a quick practise now.

Audience participation

Scene 1

On the village green - bunting and folk with glasses in their hands...celebrating the marriage, the day before, of Walter Melon to Beatrice Sting.

Villagers, Hansel and Gretel, Dame Fanny Fawcett, Beatrice Sting and Walter Melon on stage.

Suggested opening song 1: Happy - Pharrell Williams

It might seem crazy what I'm 'bout to say
Sunshine she's here, you can take a break
I'm a hot air balloon that could go to space
With the air, like I don't care baby by the way

Huh, because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Here come bad news, talking this and that
(Yeah) Well, give me all you got, and don't hold it back
(Yeah) Well, I should probably warn you I'll be just fine
(Yeah) No offense to you, don't waste your time
Here's why

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Hey, go, uh (happy)
Bring me down, can't nothin' (happy)
Bring me down
My level's too high (happy), to bring me down
Can't nothin' (happy), bring me down
I said (let me tell you now) uh
Bring me down, can't nothin'
Bring me down
My level's too high to bring me down
Can't nothin' bring me down



I said

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Hey, go, uh
Bring me down, can't nothin'
Bring me down
My level's too high to bring me down
Can't nothin' bring me down
I said

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you, eh eh eh
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do



Because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you know what happiness is to you, uh hey

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do, huh come on

After the song, the villagers and children are milling around chatting...Bea takes centre stage

Bea Sting: What a wonderful day we had yesterday...I waited so long for that happy day and now I'm a married woman...at last!

Bea wanders over to Walter and puts her arm through his possessively

Hatchet: No wonder she's waited so long... she was such a mean old spinster, no one would have her. I've no idea why Walter Melon would take her on!

Coppit: He's so sad since his beloved wife passed away. Living in that old cottage in the woods must be very lonely.

Hatchet: But he's got Hansel and Gretel for company.

Coppit: Sometimes it's hard raising children on your own. I don't know how your poor old mum coped. You were an awful child!

Hatchett: How *dare* you! I was a wonderful son. My mum was proud of how clever I was.

Coppit: You? Clever? Pull the other one...you can't even add up!

Hatchet: Oh yes I can, *(to audience)* can't I?

Audience participation, oh no he can't etc...

Coppit: Go on then, answer this...If I had 7 oranges in this hand and 9 in the other hand, what would I have?

Hatchet: Very big hands!

Coppit: Very funny...Right then answer this ...What's the capital of America?

Hatchet: Washington DC!

Coppit: See, I knew you wouldn't know. The capital of America is A!

Hatchet: OK clever clogs, *you* answer this one. Why does a stone sink when you drop it in water?

Coppit: That's easy...because it doesn't know how to swim.

Hatchet: Look at all these children out there (*pointing to the audience*) They're all more intelligent than you.

Coppit: Oh, no they're not

Audience participation...Oh yes they are etc.

Hatchett: Let's try and see if they can answer a question correctly then?

Get some volunteer children up on stage etc

Hatchett: Tell us the names of the seasons.

Children say spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Coppit: See ... I told you that I am more brainy than them. The seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Hatchet: Oh you're giving me seasonal depression! (*laughs at his own joke*)

Fanny F: (*clips them both round the ear*) Why are you both idling here? I paid you a farthing each to fetch me some fire wood. Now go on, off you go, go and get me some or I'll be after you.

Hatchet: Oh no! A fate worse than death...Fanny Fawcett after us!

Coppit: I'd rather slave all day than have Fanny after us!

Fanny F: What's wrong with me? It seems nobody loves me even though I'm 100 percent lovable.

Hatchet: And 100 percent ugly and overweight!

Hatchet and Coppit run off laughing

Fanny directs the children back to their seats with some ad libbing.

Fanny F: I'm so sad, so sad (*she encourages the audience to say 'Ahhhh'*)...I've been in love with Walter Melon all my life...we went to school together you know but he's never even looked at me in a romantic way. I can't understand it...I'm

beautiful, kind and what's more...*available*. Yes, you heard me gents...*available*...I know it's incredible, what with my good looks and talent. Anyway, Walter has gone and got himself hooked up with that awful Beatrice sting. We call her Bea for short! Bea Sting ... *Very* appropriate. She's as mean as mean can be. She *hates* children too and I can't bear to think what will happen to dear Hansel and Gretel now that *she* has become their step mother. I know, I know, she's not a patch on me, perhaps he needs glasses or has had a spell put upon him. I can't think of another single reason why he'd choose her and not me, can you?

Audience participation...Oh yes, we can...etc

Well, I think you're being rather unkind. I've got better things to do than stand here and listen to you lot being mean. I'm a wonderful cook you know and make ready meals...'take aways'... for a lot of the villagers *and* I do their ironing...I'm so versatile and did I mention...*available*? I make wonderful chocolate brownies, even if I do say so myself. Can I say chocolate brownies or is that politically incorrect? Do I need to say brownies of colour? Right, I'm dashing away with the smoothing iron now. Remember that song? No? Neither do I, I'm far too young.

Villager1: Fanny could you make me a shepherd's pie.

Fanny: Sorry, I don't have any shepherd's. Besides my can opener for the tinned tomatoes isn't working right now.

Villager1: So it's a *can't* opener! Hahaha

Villager2: How about some of your delicious brownies for desert?

Fanny: Or girl guides? (*Fanny laughs at her own joke*) I do make myself laugh! Hmm...Brownies...That reminds me I burn calories when I make chocolate brownies.

Villager3: Really? You'd never know it, looking at the size of you.

Fanny: Do you know ... last time I made brownies, I burned 2,000 calories in just 40 minutes.

Villager1: Wow! I'm trying to lose weight. I might try it. How on earth did you do it?

Fanny: I forgot to take them out of the oven and they all burnt to a crisp. Hahaha!

Villager2: I live next door and I've developed a Pavlovian response to her smoke detector!

Fanny: Ah look, here's my sweet Hansel and Gretel. How are you my dears? Are you pleased that your father has remarried and you now have a step mother?

Hansel: Well... sort of...If it will make him happy.

Gretel: He's been so sad since mummy passed away.

Fanny: Well, I've tried my best to cheer him up, I've done all your ironing and brought meals to him. I even offered him my dumplings, which I know he loves. He just doesn't seem interested. (*little sob*)

Hansel: Yes, you're right, he's been very low but now perhaps Bea Sting will cheer him up.

Gretel: I'm not holding my breath!

Fanny: No don't dear, it'll make you dizzy.

Gretel: No Fanny, I mean that I'm not sure that she will make him happy. She was always grumbling at him even before they became Mr and Mrs

Fanny: That doesn't sound good. He should have married me instead.

Hansel: Oh, how I wish he had.

Gretel: Yes, you work hard, you cook and iron and we love you. You'd be a real mother to us.

Fanny: Yes dears, I'll always love you like a mother. But first I need to get your father to love me like a wife. He just doesn't seem to want to. (*big sigh...audience 'Ahhh' encourage by Fanny*) Oops, look out, here comes old Bea Sting right now. (*to audience*) She was the village spinster you know...been looking for a husband for years!

Bea: (*To the children*) Come along you two, you must get home to start preparing our supper. What are you getting for us? I assume something very special as it's the day after our wedding day!

Gretel: But I don't really know how to cook and besides, we haven't any money to buy the food.

Fanny: Don't worry my pet, I will bring you one of my special pies...you just skip off home and get the table ready. Now that Bea here is your *mother*, she will surely cook for you all in future, like a *good* mother should. (*said very pointedly*)

Bea: First of all, my name is Beatrice not Bea and the children will have to *learn* to cook, I can't do it all the time. Perhaps *you* should teach them Fanny as I'm so busy with other things. (*turning to the children*) Anyway, you two, the least you can do today, is lay the table and wash up!

The children stand there quietly looking at the ground...

Bea: Well, can't you? Has the cat got your tongue? It's very rude to ignore your step mother. Well don't just stand there answer me! (*clips Hansel around the ear*)

Hansel: Ow! Yes, Miss Sting.

Gretel: Of course, Miss Sting

Bea: I'm not Miss Sting anymore. I'm Mrs. Melon. Well go on then, run along home and get started (*turns to Fanny*) and **you** may go ahead and start preparing our supper. You two (*to H and G*) make sure the house is sorted for when we get there...table laid and everything ready. Well go on...don't just stand there!

Hansel: Come on Gretel, we might as well get going. There'll be a lot to do.

They exit looking very glum

Bea: Walter, Walter (*Walter is talking to villagers in the background*) stop that idle chit chat, it's time to go home.

Walter: Yes dear, coming dear.

All exit apart from Fanny who takes centre stage

Fanny: So, he's chosen her over me. I've been a good friend to him and his late wife for years and yet he doesn't even notice me anymore. What do **you** all think? Eh? I'm lovely aren't I? I love those children as if they are my own, I work hard, I have a delicious body, if I do say so myself. I'd give him my all if only he wanted it.

sobs into a huge hanky that she pulls out of her long draws- blows nose very loudly as the music starts for her solo.

Suggested Song 2 for Fanny - All of Me - Frank Sinatra- Maybe the chorus only

All of me

Why not take all of me

Can't you see

I'm no good without you

Take my lips

I want to lose them

Take my arms

I'll never use them

Your goodbye
Left me with eyes that cry
How can I
Get along without you

You took the part
That once was my heart
So why not, why not
Take all of me

All of me
Come on get all of me
Can't you see
I'm just a mess without you

Take my lips
I want to lose them
Get a piece of these arms
I'll never use them

Your goodbye
Left me with eyes that cry
How can I
Ever make it without you

You know you got the part
That used to be my heart
So why not, why not
Take all of me

Fanny exits with loud sobs ...lights down momentarily and then lights up as the children enter stage right on their way home.

Hansel: I do wish that father had fallen in love with Fanny and not married that awful woman.



Gretel: Oh, me too, but it's too late now. I don't understand what father sees in her! Just think Bea Sting is our step mother...I don't think I can bear it.

Hansel: Oh well, better get home and start laying the table for supper. Good old Fanny, bringing us a pie. She's so lovely.

Children cross the stage and exit left

Witch Belladonna enters stage left crash of thunder and flash of lightning

Belladonna: Hahaha, my plan is working well, Bea Sting won't tolerate those children for long. I've given her the power to hypnotise Walter and manipulate him to do anything she wants. She'll soon be getting rid of them and I'll make sure that they come my way. *(To audience)* I **love** children you know...I do! I really **love** them...but I couldn't eat a whole one all at once! *(cackles loudly - echo on the cackle)*

Audience boo and hiss...

Belladonna: And you lot can be quiet. I don't care what you think. And as for you...*(pointing into the audience at children)* just you be careful...as I said I love children...but only when they're cooked.

Cackles loudly again - echo on the cackle

Belladonna exits stage left as Fairy enters stage right with tinkling sound

Fairy W: So that's her plan, a clever one
But I'll make sure she's overcome
And if the children ever meet her
I'll make sure that they can beat her
She has a cottage in the wood
It's made of sweets and taste so good!
That's how she lures children in
But her wicked plan is wafer thin
So, I must help to break the spell
That she has put on Walt as well
He *must* see through that awful Bea
Or the witch will eat the kids for her tea!

Lights down and Fairy exits...tinkling sound

Scene 2

In Walter Melon's cottage...children are there laying the table...Enter Bea Sting and Walter

Bea: Haven't you finished laying that table yet? For goodness sake, you're so slow!

Hansel: We're doing our best, we first had to tidy the room in time for your arrival.

Bea: Well, it doesn't look very tidy even now and there's dust everywhere. This will change now that I am mistress of this house.

Walter: Really dear, they've done a good job as far as I can see. Please don't be so sharp with the children.

Bea: Sharp? Me? I'm never sharp. Just realistic.

Walter: Yes, you have a point!

Hansel: (*aside*) A *sharp* point, that's for sure!

Knock on the door

Bea: (*to the children*) Get that will you. Go on, don't just stand there. Make yourselves useful.

Hansel: I'll go.

Opens the door and lets in Fanny

Fanny: My dear boy, how lovely to see you again.

Hansel: Lovely to see *you* Fanny and that pie smells delicious!

Gretel: Yes, it really does. How yummy.

Walter: How very kind Fanny, do come in and won't you join us for supper?

Bea: Does she have too?

Gretel: Fanny has made us a pie and walked all the way from the village to bring it to us...*surely* she is welcome to join us for supper.

Hansel: Yes, you *must* stay Fanny.

Fanny: Well my dears, I'd love to stay but I have other food deliveries to make.

Bea: (*aside*) That's good.

Fanny: And besides, I won't stay where I'm not welcome.

Gretel: But you *are* welcome Fanny and *we'd* love you to stay.

Fanny: No dears, thank you anyway, I have more 'take aways' to deliver.

Bea: (*aside*) I wish someone would take *her* away. She's such a goodie two shoes.

Bea flounces off to the table...centre back and starts telling off the children in mime only...Fanny sidles up to Walter...

Fanny: My dear Walter, I do hope you enjoy the pie. I know how sad you've been since your wife's passing and I really feel for you. (*Aside to audience*) I'd actually rather feel *him* than feel *for* him. I know you must have been lonely but has your eyesight also failed you?

Walter: What do you mean?

Fanny: (*Makes gestures towards Bea*) Well, I mean looking at Bea, I think you must need glasses if you've fallen for her. *I* bet you *haven't* fallen for her...You must be under some sort of spell. That awful, old Belladonna has been up to mischief again, I'm sure of it.

Walter: Shhh, she'll hear you.

Fanny: *So?*

Walter: We are married now and I don't want her to think that I don't love her.

Fanny: What a shame, when you could have had me...I'd cook, clean and do your ironing...In fact I do anything you want me to do... *anything!*

Bea overhears the last part...

Bea: You'd do anything for him, would you? Well how about you start by collecting wood for the fire! It's so cold in here that my teeth are chattering.

Fanny: Well take them out then. It's well known that they're not your own.

Bea: How dare you?!

Fanny: Easily. The coldness in here is caused by your icy stare and giving me the cold shoulder.

Hansel: That's funny Fanny.

Bea: There's a cold front coming in. I heard it on the weather forecast.

Fanny: Shame, I'd rather have a warm back. If only it had happened sooner, it might have meant that Walter would get 'cold feet' and change his mind about marrying you. Now that *would* be good.

Bea: I'd like to knock *you* out *cold*.

Fanny: You'd never manage it.

Bea: Yes, it would be difficult, you're so large!

Fanny: Well really! You're a disgrace. Anyway, it's time to go and deliver my other 'take aways,' so I'm off.

Bea: Well who's going to collect the firewood, then? I can't stay here in this cold cottage.

Fanny: Feel free to leave, (*aside*) Forever!

Walter: Please my dears, do stop this bickering and unkindness to each other. We are one, big happy family now.

Hansel: Huh!

Gretel: Not sure that's true, father.

Bea: Someone's got to get the firewood. I'm so cold...

Fanny: Uh oh, time to put my ear muffs on.

Bea: There you see! *You're* cold too.

Fanny: No, I'm just tired of listening to you whining. Some people - and by some people, I mean *you* Bea Sting - don't know when they're well off. I mean, imagine how cold it would be without global warming!

Fanny exits calling over her shoulder

Fanny: Good bye!

Bea: Good riddance!

Hansel: I can't take any more of this...I'm going to fetch the firewood... you coming Gretel?

Gretel: You bet, I've had enough of her too...Bea sting you're the *coldest* person I've ever met...

Bea: You dreadful child, what a horrible thing to say to your step mother.

Gretel: (*sarcastically*) But you've been telling us how *cold* you are...is that not true...are you a liar as well?

Walter: Right, that's enough, you're sounding rude now Gretel. You children go and fetch the fire wood but be quick as the pie will be heated through in about 20 minutes.

Bea: Yes, and *you've* got to prepare the vegetables yet.

Hansel: Very well father, but there's no amount of fire wood that could make *her* a warm person.

They skip out of the way as Bea tries to hit them. Hansel and Gretel exit

Bea: I'm glad they're out of the way as there's something I've been wanting to talk to you about.

Walter: Yes, my dear, what's that?

Bea takes off her locket and starts to swing it like a pendulum in front of Walter's face

Bea: It's well known that you aren't *terribly* rich, but I *did* think you were a little wealthier than you are... and your children are rude and nasty, as we've just witnessed. I think it would be a good idea if you took them deep into the woods and left them there. That would be two less mouths to feed, wouldn't it?

Walter: Oh, no my dear, I, I, I couldn't do that.

Bea continues to swing the pendulum I front of his face again

Bea: Oh yes you could, (*to audience*) couldn't he?

Audience ...oh no he couldn't etc...

Walter: But my dear, they are my children!

Bea: Well, they're not mine and I don't want them hanging around us all the time. It's not as if they are even useful. They can't even cook! How could you be so mean to me and so soon after we are married?

Walter: I'm not being mean but I love *them*, as I love *you*.

Bea: You *love* me? You have a funny way of showing it. I want to know what love is, when it comes to you.

Song 3: for Bea and Walter - I Want to Know what Love is - Foreigner

Walter: I've gotta take a little time

A little time to think things over

Bea: I'd better read between between the lines
In case I need it when I'm older

Walter: Now this mountain I must climb
Feels like a world upon my shoulders

Bea: Through the clouds I see love shine
It keeps me warm as life grows colder

Both: In my life, there's been heartache and pain
I don't know if I can face it again
Can't stop now, I've travelled so far
To change this lonely life

Bea: I wanna know what love is
I want you to show me
I wanna feel what love is
I know you can show me

Music carries on playing softly under Bea speaking

Bea: And now you're telling me that you can't get rid of your miserable children who don't even like me. If you really love me you'll do as I ask.

Walter: But...*(Bea swings the pendulum in front of his face again)* I love them,*(swinging hypnotises him again)* I mean *you*.

Bea: No buts...you will do as I say or I'll, I'll...*(Bea starts to cry)*

Walter: Oh, please don't cry my dear...

Bea: You'll do whatever I ask?

Walter: *(robotically)* I'll do whatever you ask. *(looks spaced out now)*

Black out

Scene 3

Deep in the woods (on the painted set) a cottage made of sweets can be seen in the distance- a crash of thunder and lightning then Belladonna Nightshade enters stage left

Audience encouraged to boo and hiss

Belladonna: Gosh that Bea has turned out well,
And It only took one little spell.
She's mean and nasty as can be

She could almost be a witch like me!

She's as mean as any politician,
And has an evil disposition
She'll beat Walter into submission,
He'll not put up much opposition.

So, the children should be coming soon,
I'd better go prepare the room.
They'll go in a cage until they're fat
Then I'll eat them with a side of bat.

*Cackle as she exits with a flurry...sound of thunder and a flash of lightning ...
Fairy W. enters stage right with little fairies*

Fairy W: Well really what a nasty witch
I'd like to see *her* in a ditch!
Walter has her spell on him
The situation's rather grim
Yes, it's a very sad affair
I'll have to get some help elsewhere.

Moonbeam: Can we help Willow?

Dewdrop: Yes, what can we do?

Waterlily: Can't we break the witch's spell?

Fairy W: Oh dear, I really wish we could,
But Bella's the boss in this wood.
We need to make *Bea* want to leave
I have one idea up my sleeve.
But first let's have a song and dance
It might almost be our last chance.
Let's make a wish for everyone
That life is long and lots of fun.

Song 4: My wish for you - By rascal Flatts - song and dance for fairies
Can use all or part of the song

I hope the days come easy and the moments pass slow
And each road leads you where you want to go
And if you're faced with the choice and you have to choose
I hope you choose the one that means the most to you

And if one door opens to another door closed
I hope you keep on walkin' until you find the window
If it's cold outside, show the world the warmth of your smile
But more than anything, more than anything

My wish for you
Is that this life becomes all that you want it to
Your dreams stay big, your worries stay small
You never need to carry more than you can hold

And while you're out there gettin' where you're gettin' to
I hope you know somebody loves you
And wants the same things too
Yeah, this is my wish

I hope you never look back but you never forget
All the ones who love you and the place you left
I hope you always forgive and you never regret
And you help somebody every chance you get

Oh, you'd find God's grace in every mistake
And always give more than you take
But more than anything, yeah more than anything

My wish for you
Is that this life becomes all that you want it to
Your dreams stay big, your worries stay small
You never need to carry more than you can hold

And while you're out there gettin' where you're gettin' to
I hope you know somebody loves you
And wants the same things too
Yeah, this is my wish, yeah yeah

My wish for you
Is that this life becomes all that you want it to
Your dreams stay big, your worries stay small
You never need to carry more than you can hold

And while you're out there gettin' where you're gettin' to
I hope you know somebody loves you
And wants the same things too
Yeah, this is my wish
(My wish for you)

This is my wish
(My wish for you)
I hope you know somebody loves you
(My wish for you)
May all your dreams stay big
(My wish for you)

Enter Coppit and Hatchet

Coppit: Hello Willow, what are you up to here in the woods? You should watch out, nasty old Belladonna is around somewhere.

Hatchet: That's for sure, I heard her cackling and there was some thunder and lightning a few minutes ago.

Fairy W: Ah, boys! Just who I want to see,
I'd like you to do a favour for me.
If you see Hansel and Gretel alone
Please give them this chicken bone.

Fairy hands over a chicken bone

Hatchett: That's a weird gift.

Coppit: What on earth would they want with a chicken bone?

Fairy W: Just hand it over and later you'll see
Just how useful it will be.

Hatchett: Well Ok, but what's in it for us?

Coppit: Yeah, what do we get as a reward?

Fairy W: I will reward you in due course.
If you can get Walter to divorce.
That Bea Sting is just so unkind
Walter must be out of his mind

Hatchett: Under a spell if you ask me!

Coppit: You're right, no one in their right mind would marry her otherwise.

Fairy W: To marry her was a big mistake
He must divorce her, for the children's sake.

Hatchett: Well, I like old Walter.

Coppit: Me too, I'd do it for his sake too. He's always been good to me.

Hatchet: But how can we persuade him to see the light. He seems besotted at the moment.

Coppit: Do *you* know, Willow?

Fairy W: Bea married Walter thinking he was rich
When he really doesn't have a stitch

He's such an honourable man as well
And under Belladonna's spell
We'll need a man to lure her away
That's the only way that we can save the day.
So, my helpers, go and find
A man or two that's good and kind.
Get the village women here
They can help, never fear.

Hatchet and Coppit exit

Moonbeam: So, what do we do now?

Dewdrop: We find a man, silly.

Waterlily: One who's stupid enough to fall for Bea.

Hatchet and Coppit return bringing chorus women on stage and Fanny (dame) to help with a song for audience

Woman1: What can we do to help?

FairyW: We need a man to lure Bea away,
The only way to save the day.

Woman2: You can have mine. He's pretty useless.

Woman3: But he'd also be useless at luring her away!

Coppit: I'd do it myself but I couldn't bear to be with Bea.

Hatchet: Yes, she's dreadful. What man is ever going to want to be her partner?

Woman1: So, where *are* we going to find any man that would like to be with her?

Woman2: She's hardly worth fighting over, is she?

Woman3: Why are we even trying to get her a *different* man. She has Walter!

Coppit: Precisely the point. Walter had a spell put on him by the witch so that he'd fall for her. We want to set him free.

Hatchet: Hey look, there are a lot of men out there. (*Pointing to the audience*)

Coppit: What a good idea Hatchet. You're not as stupid as you look!

Woman1: Hey ladies, do any of you want to get rid of your man?

Woman2: Just while the panto is on, maybe?

Willow: Little fairies go down there, (*pointing to audience*)
And find a man who's good and fair.

Little fairies go into the audience with the village women and try to persuade some men up on stage. A 'Plant' in the audience gets pushed up on stage. If others get up on stage do the routine with them all.

Woman3: (*To the plant*) Well you're a fine-looking man. Let's see if you fit the bill.

Woman 2: (*to another man*) You look Ok too.

Woman3: This one's not bad either.

Woman 1: Let's see what you're all made of.

Ad libbing get all the men to do the following:

- *State their name -the Plant will say Joe and later in the panto it will be revealed that his surname is King ... Joe king.)*
- *Roll up trouser legs and show knees*
- *Do a press up*
- *Roll up sleeves and show muscles etc.*

Get audience to clap each man in turn

Joe: But why are we all up here?

At the end of all that get the audience to join in the song

Woman2: What we need is a man to take on Bea and release Walter.

Woman3: Yes, we need a hero.

Song 5: I need a Hero - Bonnie Tyler - *for all on stage and get audience participation*

The lyrics are slightly changed - every 'I' is changed to 'we'

Where have all the good men gone
And where are all the Gods?
Where's the street-wise Hercules
To fight the rising odds?

Isn't there a white knight upon a fiery steed?
Late at night we toss and we turn

And we dream of what we need

Chorus *for all*

We need a hero, we're holding out for a hero
'Til the end of the night
He's gotta be strong
And he's gotta be fast
And he's gotta be fresh from the fight

We need a hero, we're holding out for a hero
'Til the morning light
He's gotta be sure
And it's gotta be soon
And he's gotta be larger than life
Larger than life

*At the end of the song get audience to cheer as loudly as possible for each man on stage and the largest cheer is chosen. Of course, it will be the Plant or at least pretend it is!
All others sent to sit back down in the audience.*

Hatchet: Well, it looks as though we've found the man to lure Bea away.

Coppit: Come with us Joe and we'll tell you what to do. Hatchet, take his mobile phone away first. We don't want him calling for help. Oh, and check that he doesn't have an Apple watch. He might use that to escape.

Exit Coppit, Hatchet and the Plant

Fairy W: Well done ladies! We've found the man
Now we can continue with *our* plan.

Everyone exit left as Walter and the children enter right.

Walter: Well here we are my dears, I'll leave you to have your picnic tea whilst I go and fetch firewood for this evening.

Gretel: Oh please don't leave us father. It's getting late and I don't like it in the woods when it's dark.

Hansel: It's alright Gretel, I'll look after you.

Walter: Besides, I'll be back shortly with the firewood and then we'll go home.

Hansel: Take care father, see you later.

Gretel opens the food bundle to find one small crust of bread between them.