



Pantoscripts Perusal

Babes In The Woods

by Helen Gard and Jo Stokes

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Character list - Babes in The Wood

Many of the characters can double up if short of cast

Character	Info
Emmaline	Babe – Young male lead
Edwin	Babe – Young female lead
Baron D'evil	The uncle – The Baddy – sings
Cheri Bakewell	The Dame – housekeeper – sings
Spittle	Henchman – (Nasty) chorus songs +
Lurch	Henchman (stupid) chorus songs +
Fairy Fluster	Fairy of The Forest - sings
Tree	Also chorus in Scs 1 and 6
Robin Hood	The Goody – chorus singing
Willow	Sprite - dance
Cowslip	Sprite - dance
Thistledown	Sprite - dance
Town Cryer	Doubles up – chorus and Will Scarlet
Man 1	Doubles up – chorus and Fryer Tuck
Man 2	Doubles up – Chorus and Robin Hood
Man 3	Doubles up – Chorus and Tree
Woman 1	Doubles up – chorus and Alice –A –Dale
Woman 2	Doubles up – chorus and Little Jane
Woman 3	Doubles up – chorus and Maid Marion
Woman 4	Doubles up – chorus and Cecily
Child 1	Doubles up – chorus and Sprite
Child 2	Doubles up – chorus and Sprite
Child 3	Doubles up – chorus and Sprite
Cecily	Merry Maid - sings
Maid Marion	kind and sweet – chorus singing
Alice –A- Dale	Merry maid – duet, group and chorus songs
Little Jane	Merry maid – duet, group and chorus songs
Friar Tuck	Merry man – chorus songs
Will Scarlet	Merry man – chorus songs

ACT 1

Scene 1

In Nottingham market square - Fairy is front stage right

S and L Cue 1: Two spots one each side of the stage rest of stage in darkness ...Fairy sound

Fairy: Welcome to our pantomime,
I'm the only one who speaks in rhyme!

(Oh no you're not from the wings...oh yes I am etc.)

Our story has a darker side,
Since our Duke of Totford died.
(Ahhh from audience encouraged by fairy)

He was alone, a wife no more,
For she was ill and died before.
(Ahhh from audience encouraged by fairy)

These loving parents, good and kind,
Have sadly left two babes behind.
Without a father or a mother,
Now in the care of the father's brother.

The uncle, the uncle! Baron D'Evil. Oh do keep up...we're only at the beginning, if
you've stopped paying attention already there's no hope!
Anyway...

An evil man, hard and cold,
The only thing he loves is gold.
The babes' inheritance he'd like to acquire
Money and riches his only desire.

But...For him to gain his brother's wealth,
He'll have to act with wit and stealth.
This man, we know, is harsh and cruel
But he's also just a witless fool!

Enter Baron Stage left

Baron: Fool! Who are you calling a fool?! I'll have you know I have an NVQ in thuggery!

Fairy: Talk of the devil, here he is,
He's the baddy that you can't miss,
When ever you see him Boo and Hiss!
I'm sure you know how. It goes like this.

Come on get some practise in!

BD: You lot can shut up or I'll make sure there's no ice cream in the interval! And you
mind your own business Fairy Fluster, who do you think you are?

Fairy: He's likes to think that he's the boss.
A nasty man, who's always cross,

BD: *(To audience)* Well, You try wearing these tights and see how you like it! As for you,
you big ball of fairy dust, you can just stop interfering.

Fairy: This of course is Baron D'Evil...Devil by name, devil by nature.

Audience Boo, hiss etc

BD: Yeah, yeah, bring it on! My shoulders are broad, I can take it. Now, where the hell are my useless henchman? Have you seen them anywhere? (*audience interaction*) No, No? Well you can make yourselves useful and call them for me...Well don't just sit there go on call them!

Fairy: Dear Baron, please do think again,
You have to first give out the names.

BD: Their names...oh yes, well, they are Spittle and Lurch. Do you think you can manage that? Not a lot to ask is it? You all look half asleep. Now get your act together and start calling...come on, after me ...Spittle! Lurch!

S and L Cue 2: Lift lighting on whole stage

They creep in behind him ...audience yelling they're behind you etc. he walks around and they walk around behind him in a circle...usual oh no they're not etc until he stops quickly and they all bump into each other. They bow and grovel...one cleans the Baron's shoe with his sleeve.

Spittle: We are here oh Evil One.

Baron: I can see that...get off my foot you fool! Just get off

Lurch: But Sire, you've got manure on your shoe.

Baron smacks him around the head

BD: Get up, you useless waste of space, I have a task for you. One I think you might enjoy if you hate children as much as I do! Hahahaha... Follow me! Come on We've work to do.

All three Exit left.

S and L cue 3: Lights back down and spot on FF

FF: And so our story has begun,
Fear not, there *will* be songs and fun.
Let's see what's happening in the square,
Oh look, It's Market day over there.

S and L 4: Bright daylight...yellow wash

All cast on stage as market people except Dame, Town Crier and Baron.

Song

Exit FF

Woman 1: What a glorious day! I hope this brings the customers out!

Man 1: You've got some good eggs there for sale, Alice.

Man 2: I hear eggs are going up.

Woman 1: That'll surprise a few chickens!

Man 2: Up in price...and if this good weather holds then it's likely that it'll bring more customers to market.

Woman 2: Well even if it doesn't, money ain't the be all and end all. I mean look at The Duke!

Woman 3: Yes, I 'eard 'es on 'is last legs and so soon after 'is poor wife passed away.

Woman 1: They say 'es dyin' of a broken 'eart. That's so sad.

Woman 2: And what's to become of those poor children of 'is?

Woman 3: Cheri will look after them of course. She 'as the kindest 'eart. I've known 'er since I were a child.

Enter town crier...

TC: Oh Yae, Oh Yae, Oh Yae... Oh Yae...
I have sad news upon this day,
The Duke of Totford passed away
Leaving two babes without a mother
To be looked after by his brother.

Man 1: Did I 'ear that right? Not Baron D'Evil! Please tell me it's not 'im that's to look after the babes!

Child 1: That man scares me.

Child 2: He wouldn't let us 'ave our ball back the other day.

Child 3: Yes, he was really mean to us.

Child 1: We were carol singin' last year and he told us to be quiet.

Child 2: Wouldn't even give us a halfpenny even though we said it was for Charity.

Child 3: That's right. He just said Charity begins at home.

Woman 1: That man 'as no 'eart!

Man 2: 'e never even went to his sister in law's funeral !

Man 1: And 'e 'ates children by all accounts.

Woman 1: So why on earth would 'e want to look after the babes then?

Man 2: He'll only be after the Duke's money, you mark my words.

Man 1: Of course he will, he gambled all 'is own money away!

Woman 2: Oh, those poor wee children.

Woman 3: Shhh, don't let them 'ear us talking about their father...I mean, who's goin' to tell them the sad news?

Woman 1: Poor Cheri. She loves those children so much. She'll be broken 'earted.

Enter Nanny, Cheri Bakewell on a scooter ...in tears

CB: *(Crying so hard that it's difficult to hear what she is saying)* Has anyone seen my babes?

Woman 1: Has anyone seen your bread?

CB: *(Still crying)* Has anyone seen my babes?

Woman 2: Has anyone seen your Navel?

Man 2: Ewww!

CB: *(Still crying)* Has anyone seen my babes?

Woman 3: Has anyone seen you bare?

Man 2: Even more Ewww!!!

Nanny gets cross and continues in a cross voice more clearly...

CB: I *said*, has anyone seen my babes! What ever is the matter with you all...are you deaf? *(now speaks in a sad voice but clearly)*
It's a sad, sad day. Not only have they lost their mother but now their dear father has passed away as well.

Woman 2: Oh dear, oh dear. I 'ates to see you like this Cheri. What can I do to 'elp? You know I'm always 'ere for you.

CB: Tell me what to say...I mean, how shall I tell them, what's to become of us?

TC: I have this day, just told the news
Baron D'Evil will fill his shoes
The children's care he'll undertake...

Man 2: Well that will be a big mistake!

CB: But they hardly know him and I've only met him once! Although I have to say he did look rather dashing...a fine figure of a man, just like my late dear *depleted* husband. You know I used to rub grease all over his back when he felt poorly to make him feel better.

Man 1: What 'appened to 'im?

CB: He went down hill really fast.

Man 2: Did 'e cause an accident? Was that the cause of 'is demise?

CB: No, no...my dear *deleted* husband fell into a huge vat of granulated coffee and was never seen again.

Man 2: That must have been a terrible way to go!

CB: But at least it was instant.

Woman 1: We were talkin' about Baron D'evil lookin' after the babes before you got distracted.

CB: Oh yes, the Baron...if I remember rightly he was rather dishy...I seem to remember he rather liked my mince pies...Yes a very discerning man...he was always selectable about his food(*she goes off on one rather dreamily*)

Woman 2: I thought you were done with men now that you've lost your husband.

Woman 3: Yes, I thought you were single by choice.

CB: Yes, but just not my choice.

Nanny gets interrupted by Man 2

Man 2: I thought you was looking for the Duke's children.

CB: Oh yes, so I was...

Woman 1: 'ere take this. (*passes her a hanky*)

CB: (*weeps again and blows her nose very noisily into a large hanky, turns to a child and says*) have you seen Edwin and Emmaline? I can't find them anywhere.

Woman 3: No I 'aven't, why not ask the children?

Child 1: Yes, we were playing hoopla together just now.

CB: Well go and fetch them then my pets but don't say a word, I want to break the news to them myself.

Child 2: Yes, Nanny Bakewell.

Child 3: Straight away nanny.

CB: Oh please call me Cheri my dears.

Children: Yes, Cheri Bakewell

Children exit right

Woman 1: Well it's a right, fine life you're going to have now Nanny Bakewell.

Woman 2: Just you, the children and the Baron under the same roof.

CB: Do you think he will move in with us then? Oooh...perhaps I can impress him with my baking.

Men nudging each other

Man 1: He'll love your dumplings.

Man 2: I rather like 'er baps...always so soft!

Woman 3: Oy! Behave yourself Frederick!

Man 2: What?! I was only referring' to 'er bread.

Woman 3: Hmmmm, a likely story!

CB: Yes, well I'm rather proud of my iced buns.

Man 1: Especially the ones with cherries on top! Eh, Cheri Bakewell?

CB: Oh you are awful, but I rather like you!

Enter Edwin and Emmaline with the other children stage right

Emmaline: Nanny, nanny...

Edwin: What are you doing here?

Emmaline: It's not supper time yet is it nanny?

Edwin: We've been playing hoopla, come and watch Nanny...see how far I can roll my hoop.

CB: Not right now my dears, I have some news for you both...I don't quite know how to tell you...*(lets out a big sob.)*

Emmaline: Whatever is it Nanny?

Edwin: Is it bad news Nanny?

CB: Oh my dears, my pets, I'm so sorry to tell you but your dear father passed away this day... He's gone to join your mother so we must be happy for him.

Both children start to cry quietly

Emmaline: But what's to become of us Nanny? We don't even have a mother anymore either.

Edwin: Who will take care of us?

Woman 1: Don't fret my dears, Cheri will always love you and be there for you.

CB: Yes, I will look after you until my dying day...you can always count on me.

S and L Cue 5: Darken stage and soft low centre spot on Nanny, the babes and three ladies behind

All other cast exit, stage darkens and nanny starts the song and woman 4 continue.

Song to the babes.

S and L Cue 6: Lights fade to black then all exit stage right

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Scene 2

In the late Duke's kitchen...Nanny enters in the dark... is singing to herself...'One day My prince will come...'

S and L cue 7: Normal daylight whole stage

Baron barges in...

CB: Oh, I say! Baron D'Evil isn't it?!

BD: Yes, it is indeed, did I take you by surprise?

CB: *(aside)* I wish he had!

BD: Madam, I am here to do my duty as an upstanding member...of society.

CB: *(fans herself)* Well bless my bloomers! What a fine member you are sir.
(Aside) Be still my beating heart...I don't want to have to jump start you again.

BD: In my own magnanimous way I have selflessly put aside all my other duties to adhere to my brother's wishes and take care of his children.

CB: What a magnificent, upstanding member! Generous and magnanimous!

BD: So, where are the little brats...I mean children?

CB: Up in their rooms the little darlings, broken hearted they are. Trying to come to terms with the loss of their dear, departed father. I'm doing my best to hold the fort but they do need a man in their lives. *(Aside)* So do I!

BD: *(sweeping bow)* Well here he is! I will love them and everything about them *(rubbing hands together)* as if they were my own.

CB: So lovely to hear that you have these paternal feelings and this from a single man...I'm sure they will be safe in your hands. *(aside)* as I'd like to be.

BD: As will you madam...You will always have a place in this house *(aside)* even if it is in the cellar.

Audience boo

CB: Well dear Baron, if I am to continue in *your* service I must cater for your every need. But first in order to do this I need some money for food. Unfortunately, I have exhausted the house keeping money left to me.

BD: MONEY!?! You need money from ME?

CB: Well yes, if you're to live here and I'm to feed you sir. I went to the bank yesterday to ask the manager to check my balance.

BD: And?

CB: He pushed me over!

BD: So you have no money at all? But my brother was an extremely wealthy man!

CB: Yes, but the children have inherited everything and the money is in safe keeping for them until they come of age.

Baron looks aghast

BD: (Aside) We'll soon see about that.

CB: And look at this lot! (holding up loads of envelopes) Everyone wants money!

BD: Are those all bills?

CB: No they're all mine! (CB: starts to go off on one mostly speaking to the audience)
Trouble is, just about the time I think I can make ends meet, somebody moves the ends. I wanted to buy the babes a Yo Yo for Christmas but all I could afford was a Yo. I'm so short of money that I can only buy food for the babes, I haven't tasted food all week.

Lots of Ahs from the audience encouraged by CB:

BD: Don't worry, it still tastes the same. So dear lady, let me give you a few pennies to tide you over.

CB: OOOH, you're so generous.

BD: Yes, I am aren't I?

Oh no you're not etc. He gets his money out and gives her some.

CB: Thank you good sir.

She turns away, a little embarrassed.

Song:

BD: Now where the hell are my henchmen...Never here when you need them!
You know their names...You call them for me, that's what I pay you for after all...oh no, I don't pay you do I? In fact you paid to come and see this show, stupid as you are. But never mind, we're going to cram 10 minutes entertainment into 2 hours of utter chaos for you...so call the hench men for me. I want to stand here and gaze at my beautiful money.
(Audience boo and hiss)
Well go on then, haven't forgotten their names already have you?
Yes, you might have done, you don't look very bright.

Nanny exits as henchmen enter left, brushing past her

Spittle: What's wrong with her?

Lurch: Was she crying?

BD: I don't know and I don't care, not my concern!

Spittle: You called for us Oh Dark One?

Lurch: Yeah, he did didn't he? Wonder what he wants...

BD: Listen you fools and I'll tell you.

Lurch: OOOH, is it going to be a story, I love stories. My favourite is the one with those two ugly sisters...(gets a clip round the head) Ow! can I sit on your lap?

Spittle: Don't be so stupid, you great lummox!

BD: Just listen the pair of you, for goodness sake!

Lurch: I'm all ears.

BD: Yes, well... we can't all be perfect like me...
I have a special task for you. One that requires you to be as hard hearted as I am.
Can you do that?

Spittle: Yes.

Lurch: I dunno, what does hard hearted mean?

BD: Use your loaf, you buffoon!

Lurch: I haven't got any bread!

Spittle smacks him again

BD: As I told you earlier, I have a problem that you can help me to solve. It concerns two brats and an awful lot of money. These insipid little beings have inherited my brother's entire estate!

Lurch: Quite right too.

Spittle clips Lurch around the ear

BD: It is in safe keeping for them until they come of age.

Spittle: That's dreadful your Blackness, surely by rights the inheritance should come to you.

BD: My thoughts exactly! But how?

Spittle: How?

Lurch: How?

BD: Indeed how? Your thoughts men...Second thoughts, *your* thoughts Spittle...I don't think Lurch has any, do you Lurch? Lard for a brain.

Lurch: Eh? What?

Spittle: Not what...how?

They all pace around saying ...'how' until BD stops abruptly and they all bump into each other.

S and L 8: crashing noise?

BD: Of course if anything untoward was to happen to them (God forbid!) (*Said sarcastically*) the whole lot would transfer to me, as next of kin.

Spittle: That's it! I have it Your Malevolence! *WE* can dispose of them for you!

Lurch: Can we? What does dispose mean?

Spittle: Is there a fee involved?

BD: Well, that will depend if you do the job properly. I won't have any money unless you do. How do you propose to dispose of them?

Spittle: We can take them into the deepest, darkest part of the forest and

Lurch: But I'm afraid of the dark...

BD: Don't interrupt!

Spittle: And draw our knives

Lurch: My mum says, I'm not allowed to play with sharp knives.

BD: Well, I give you my full permission and I am your boss.

Lurch: Thank you.

BD: That's settled then...I knew I'd come up with something, I'm so glad I thought of that. It doesn't take long when you're a genius like me.

Spittle: But, but, but etc

BD: *(calls off to off stage)* Brats...I mean children, come here. I have two friends I'd like you to meet. Come on, hurry up, I haven't got all day.

Audience hiss and boo

Enter children stage right

BD: My dears, you must know, that as your uncle, I have nobly agreed to look after and care for you with the help of Cheri Bakewell.

Emmaline: Where is Nanny?

Edwin: She's usually cooking our supper at this time of day.

BD: I have generously given her some money to buy more food for you and she is out shopping.
I told you I would care for you all and I never go back on my word, do I?

Audience participation led by Lurch...Oh yes you do etc.

Emmaline: And who are these two men?

Edwin: What's that dreadful smell? *(Checking his shoes)*

Spittle: I'm spittle.

Lurch: and I'm Lurch.

Edwin: What strange names...We've not met these men before? Are they beggars that you are also looking after sir?

BD: Sort of... In my usual generous way, I am looking after them in so much as that I am paying them to look after *you* for a while. They are to take you out for a nice stroll through the woods whilst supper is cooking.

Emmaline: But Uncle, we're not allowed to go into the forest with strangers.

Edwin: If we wait for Nanny, she could come too.

BD: No, no...no need...they're not strangers to me and I know that they will take great care of you...won't you men?

Lurch: But I thought ...