



Hansel & Gretel

by Helen Gard

PantoScripts Perusal

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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

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.

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

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

FairyW 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]

Belladonna 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

FairyW 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

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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.

Opening song -

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.*

Dame number

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

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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 in 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.

Older style love song – *Bea & Walter*

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*

FairyW: 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?

FairyW: 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.

Fairy number

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.

FairyW: 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?

FairyW: 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?

FairyW: 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.

FairyW: 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?

FairyW 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.

Woman2: (*to another man*) You look Ok too.

Woman3: This one's not bad either.

Woman1: 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.

Finding a hero style song – Fairies and onstage audience

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.

Hansel: Well so much for a picnic. There's not enough here for the both of us. You have it Gretel.

Gretel: No, we'll share. Father should be back soon, I'm sure.

Hansel: Actually, *I'm* not so **sure**.

Gretel: What do you mean?

Hansel: I overheard Bea telling father to take us deep into the woods and leave us there. She said that they couldn't afford to feed **us** as well as themselves.

Gretel: But father would never do such a mean thing to us, would he? We're his children and he loves us!

Hansel: It's as if he's under some sort of spell. He'd never have wanted to marry Bea either, otherwise.

Gretel: *(starts to cry softly)* What are we going to do? I'm scared Hansel. We've never been so deep in the woods before. We'll never find our way home!

Hansel: Don't be scared. When I overheard them talking, I decided to collect some pebbles and I dropped them one at a time whilst walking here. We can find our way back by following the pebble route.

Gretel: Oh Hansel, you're so clever. Thank you.

Hansel: As you say, it will be getting dark soon so we must make haste or we won't be able to see the pebbles.

They stand up and start to leave the stage

Lights down.

Enter Witch Belladonna stage left in spot light rest of stage in darkness

Belladonna: Oh darn, they found a way back home,
I thought they'd get lost in the gloam,
Still, tomorrow is another day and
Bea'll send them back without delay.
They're sure to set her nerves a grating.
And I've a cage for them, just waiting.
I like to eat a child each week
But two at once...Now that's a treat!

Audience boo and hiss

Belladonna:: How dare you boo and hiss at me
When I'm as lovely as can be!
I really don't care what you think
Anyway, most children stink
They're only tasty once they're cooked
A fact that many overlook
I have an oven ready too
So just watch out or I'll cook you!

Belladonna lets out a horrible cackle ...crash of thunder and lightning before black out...

PantoScripts Perusal

Scene 4

In Walter's cottage Walter working and Bea reading with her feet up

Enter Hansel and Gretel

Bea: What are you doing here? I hoped, I, I mean I **thought** that you were lost.

Walter: Oh my dears, I'm so very pleased to see you. I've been so worried about you, alone in the forest.

Gretel: So why didn't you come back for us father?

Walter: I did but you were gone.

Hansel: Really father? We waited until twilight and then thought we'd better try to find our own way home before it got very dark.

Bea: *(To children)* How clever of you! *(To Walter)* Walter, you couldn't have gone far enough into the forest.

Gretel: What do you mean by that?

Bea: Slip of the tongue, I, I meant it's a good job that he didn't go too far and that you were able to find your way home.

Hansel: Hmm, well anyway, it's getting late and I'm going to bed.

Gretel: Me too, I'm tired after all that walking.

Both: Goodnight father.

Walter: Good night my darlings.

H and G exit

Bea: Darlings?! Darlings?! They're just a pair of brats. You must take them further into the forest tomorrow Walter and make sure that they can't find their way back this time or I'll, I'll...

Walter: My dear, please don't be so cruel to me or the children.

Bea: Well, who do you love best? Me or them?

Walter: I love you all equally.

Bea: *(Bea gets her necklace and starts to swing it in front of Walter's eyes)* That's not good enough. You are married to **ME** now and as such should do my bidding.

Lights down Bea and Walter in freeze frame

Enter Fairy Willow right and Belladonna left...spotlights either side

Belladonna: What a wonderful student is that Bea,
She's so mean she could be an MP

Fairy W: You think you're clever, I can see
But you're going to have to deal with me!
The power of love will always win,
Your evil powers are wafer thin.

Belladonna: You make me laugh, you're so naïve,
And simple if you really believe,
That you can beat me every time
My magic's strong and in its prime.

Fairy W: I'll win this battle, just wait and see,
I have all these good people helping me. *(pointing to the audience)*

Music starts under the last line and Fairy W begins to sing...

Fight song – Belladonna & FairyW

Lights down – Exit

Lights up again- Enter Fanny

Fanny: *(To audience)* Goodness, are you all still here...and awake? Well done! Can you guess what's going to happen in the end? Well, I'm not going to tell you, you'll just have to wait and see...

Now... we're taking a little comfort break and while we get ourselves ready for the most wonderful finale you've ever seen, you can go and have a drink at the bar, don't overdo it or you **will** fall asleep in the second half.

I think you're going to like my next outfit...It's made for an hour glass figure, just like mine.

Enter Hatchett and Coppit

Hatchett: Yes, but all your sand is at the bottom!

Fanny: Well really! How dare you, you don't deserve to see me in the second half.

Coppit: I don't want to.

Fanny chases them off stage...

End of Act 1

Interval

ACT 2

Scene 5

Deep in the forest

Gretel: Twice in two days. He said it was a mistake last time. I can't believe father would leave us here alone, so deep in the forest.

Hansel: I *can*, I'm sure that he's under a spell. He'd never treat us so badly otherwise.

Gretel: What are we going to do?! I'm so scared.

Hansel: We're going to be fine. I brought some breakfast bread and have been scattering crumbs all along the route.

Gretel: Oh, Hansel, how clever of you! I'm so glad I have you for a brother.

Hansel: Well we'd better make a start before it gets too dark to see the crumbs.

Gretel: Oh look, here are some crumbs, it must be this way.

They both exit stage right.

Enter Coppit and Hatchett stage left...

Coppit: I hope we find these children soon. Fairy Willow Wonder-Wand said they'd be in the deepest, darkest part of the woods today.

Hatchett: I'm sure they're here somewhere.

Coppit: *(To the audience)* Have you seen Hansel and Gretel anywhere?

Audience participation... "yes" etc.

Hatchett: Which way did they go?

Audience ... "That way" etc.

Coppit: You're awfully quiet, I can't hear you.

They divide the audience into two halves and see which half can shout the loudest.

Hatchett: Oh, so they went that way...

Coppit: Come on Hatchett, let's go that way and see if we can find them.

They both exit stage right as H and G enter stage left, just missing each other.

Hansel: Oh dear, I was sure that I'd scattered lots of crumbs but I can't find any now.

We hear wood pigeons cooing.

Gretel: Did you hear that?

Hansel: Yes, I did, why? It's only the wood pigeons.

Gretel: Think about it, Hansel.

Hansel: Why?

Gretel: Well, what do wood pigeons love to eat?

Hansel: Worms? Seeds? *(To children in audience)* Anything else?

Children in audience... "bread crumbs!"

Gretel: ...And bread crumbs! *(To audience)* Can you think what might have happened to the bread crumbs, children?

Audience/ children...the pigeons have eaten them

Gretel: Well done, you're very bright.

Hansel: Oh, I get it now...the pigeons have eaten the crumbs I put down! Now what are we going to do?!

Gretel: We must keep searching for a way out of the forest.

Lights darken a little and we hear an owl hoot...

Hansel: Oh dear, it's getting dark.

Gretel: I'm frightened.

They exit stage right again...more owl noises

H and G enter stage left

Hatchett: I'm getting tired of looking for these children.

Coppit: Me too. Let's sit here for a while and rest.

Hatchet: Here, have you got that money you owe me?

Coppit: As a matter of fact, I have. I won the lottery this week.

Hatchet: Well, it's about time you paid me back, don't you think? Oh no, I forgot, you rarely **think**.