



PantoScripts Perusal

Rapunzel

by Helen Gard

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Fairy Nuff	Chatty and a bit dippy (f)
Rapunzel:	Slightly vain. Obsessed with her hair (f)
Sir Walter Cress:	Under the thumb, obsequious and weak (m)
Dame Camilla Cress:	(The Dame) Landlady of Hugh Chopper (m)
Master Chris Cress:	Son of Walter Cress and Camilla Cress (m)
Witch – Mad Donna:	Evil until relents and released from a spell (f)
Dan Trodden	Mad Donna’s slightly stupid, side-kick (m)
Speaking Tree	Miserable. Must have good facial expression (m or f adult)

The following roles can be combined or cut if not enough cast.

Fairy Liquid	Assistant to Fairy Nuff (female Child)
Fairy Snow	Assistant to Fairy Nuff (female Child)
Fairy Dazzle	Assistant to F. Nuff (female Child)
Elf(ish) Presley	Assistant to Mad Donna (male Child)
Elf Yourself	Assistant to Mad Donna (male child)
Elf(in) Stardust	Assistant to Mad Donna (malechild)
Dick Whittington	Character met in the woods (male)
Dorothy	Character met in the woods (female)
Red Riding Hood	Character met in the woods (female)
Snow White	Character met in the woods (female)
Widow Twanky	Character met in the woods (female)
Pantomime Horse	Dame Camilla’s horse (if enough Cast, 2 – m or f)

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Scene 1

Scene opens with Fairy Nuff sitting on a log in the forest reading the "Fairy Observer" in spotlight.

Behind her is Mr and Mrs. Chopper's woodcutter's house.

Fairy Nuff Continues reading for a few seconds then she notices the audience...

Fairy Nuff: Oh you surprised me...Hello everyone – My name's Nuff, a real fairy by the way, not just a panto fairy. I was just reading the "Fairy Observer". How times have changed and not for the better I might add! Do you know that they have footballers and soap stars playing panto fairies these days? I ask You! You can't expect a footballer to sing or dance, now can you?! (*audience participation – oh yes you can etc.*) Well, the only part a SOAP Star could play would be Fairy Liquid. Get it? (*laughs to herself*) Whatever is the fantasy world coming too?! I however, am the real McCoy!

I'm actually the fairy in charge of the safe delivery of babies. Which reminds me, there are two couples each expecting their first-born child in this very village. Would you like to know who they are? Well...there's Mrs. Chopper, she's married to the local woodcutter, Hugh. His job's rubbed off on him and he sleeps like a log. Get it? (*laughs to herself again*)

*Lights down on F. Nuff and up on cottage, Hugh and Mrs. Chopper.
Mrs. Chopper is Knitting.*

Hugh: How are you feeling my dear?

Mrs. Chopper: A little tired husband dear but very excited too – Just think ...we are to become parents, at last... and will soon have a beautiful baby to love!

Lights down on cottage and back to F. Nuff

Fairy Nuff: Then there's Sir Walter Cress and his wife, Dame Camilla Cress (*aside*) she's as ugly as sin and I'm supposed to ensure that she produces a beautiful baby!

Lights down on F. Nuff and back on cottage

Loud knock at the door

Hugh: Who can that be so early in the morning?

Hugh goes to wings to open door ...Enter Camilla Cress (Dame) followed by Walter

Camilla: Ah, Hugh Chopper – there you are, my man – thought you were never going to answer – can't stand outside your door all day! My baby is due in less than eight weeks and I grow increasingly weary, not to mention hungry!

Lights down on cottage and spot back on F. Nuff

Fairy Nuff: So, you see, as far as presiding over babies goes, I've got my work cut out. I'm expecting my fairy helpers any minute, to discuss the finer details of the productions so I can't stop here chatting to you lot...Oh, just one thing though, when you see me, could you remember to call out 'That's Fairy Nuff?' Go on, have a go now (*audience participation*) Well done – Don't forget now, will you?!

From wings

F. Liquid: Fairy Nuff...Fairy Nuff!

F. Nuff: Over here girls!

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Enter F. Liquid, F. Snow and F. Dazzle

F. Liquid: You called a meeting. Is there a problem?

Fairy Nuff: Just two babies to produce.

F. Snow : How exciting!

F. Dazzle: Boys or girls?

Fairy Nuff: One of each actually. Camilla Cress is expecting a boy, and Mrs. Chopper a girl. Spookily enough on the very same day!

All Fairies: What fun (*all talk excitedly over each other*)

F. Liquid: Let's give the boy dark hair and brown eyes.

F. Snow: Let's give the girl blond hair and blue eyes.

F. Dazzle: Let's give her a dimple!

All: Where?

Suggested song and dance – for fairies

Fairy Nuff: We'll have it on her cheek! Right that's settled then. Now come along all of you we must start preparing the spells and gathering the fairy dust for the christenings...

All exit chattering excitedly...Lights down forest backdrop pulled back to reveal Woodman's cottage. Mrs. Chopper sitting knitting...

Hugh: (*hesitantly and nervously*) Dame Camilla and Sir Walter... to what do we owe this...er... pleasure?

Walter: Well my man...

(interrupted by Camilla)

Camilla: I'm not one to beat about the bush, although you are obviously used to it, being a woodcutter...hahaha... We're here because *I* want the water cress growing in the garden next door and I want *you* to get it for me.

Hugh and wife gasp together

Hugh: That's not possible! The house next door belongs to Mad Donna, a witch by repute. No one dares to go near her. She is very ready with that wand of hers and it's *not* to cast nice spells, I can tell you!

Mrs. Chopper: Why, only yesterday she turned our poor cat into a toad because he walked through her garden.

Camilla: (*Dismissively*) I am aware of her nasty habits and that is why I have come to *you*. I *must* have that water cress! During my pregnancy, I have had many food cravings...

Walter: This is true. I have travelled the country acquiring the finest ingredients for her. She eats huge quantities of everything but nothing seems to satisfy her!

Mrs. Chopper: You should be careful of your eating habits when you are expecting a baby. As you can see, *I* have been on a very strict diet.

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- Camilla:** Don't talk to me about diets – I've tried them *all* – From Keto to Paleo. I've even tried the F Plan haven't I Walter?
- Walter:** Yes dear (*aside*) We all remember the F Plan! Not to mention the Cabbage Soup diet! The household was very stormy during that phase!
- Camilla:** I tried the religious diet for a while. That's where you eat what you like and then pray you don't put on any weight. Then there was the colour diet.
- Walter:** But she couldn't decide what colour to dye it.
- Camilla:** I quite enjoyed the whisky diet.
- Mrs. Chopper:** The whisky diet? (*incredulous*)
- Walter:** She didn't lose much *weight* on it but she lost a couple of *days* completely!
- Camilla:** The light diet was pretty ineffective too.
- Hugh:** How was that diet supposed to work?
- Camilla:** Well, You can only eat when the light is on.
- Walter:** Not only did her weight go up, so did the electricity bill!
- Camilla:** I'm currently trying a sea food diet.
- Walter:** (*aside*) She's always been on that one. See food and she eats it.
- Camilla:** And, we all know that water cress goes very nicely with fish and I've heard that Mad Donna's cress has special powers – It is supposed to enhance one's beauty, not that I shall be needing that! So, you see Mr. Chopper, I must have this cress and *YOU* (*pointing to Hugh*) are the best man to acquire it for me. Isn't he Walter?
- Walter:** Yes dear
- Hugh:** Oh but...
- Camilla:** No buts... I *must* have it! I've tried everything else and I just can't get any satisfaction.
- Suggested Song for Dame**
- Mrs. Chopper:** Your ladyship, your request is unfair and I can not allow my husband to approach Mad Donna to ask for her watercress!
- Hugh:** Besides, she has that evil old companion Dan Trodden, he wouldn't let us near the place.
- Camilla:** Oh, don't worry. I don't expect you to *ask* Mad Donna. Oh no, You, must *steal* the cress!
- Hugh:** That, I *cannot* do!
- Camilla:** I think you will when you know my terms and conditions, won't he Walter?
- Walter:** (*with a sigh*) Yes dear.
- Camilla:** If you don't bring me the cress by 9 a.m. tomorrow morning, as landlord of this cottage, my husband Walter, will evict you from the property, Won't you Walter?
- Walter:** (*very quietly*) Yes dear. (*Sigh*)

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Camilla: Are you listening Walter?

Walter: Yes dear. I could listen to you forever, dear. *(aside)* And I think I just did!

Camilla: So, stop looking so nervous and tell him to steal the cress for me. *(Walter just stands there looking scared)* Oh for goodness sake, you pathetic creature! I'll do it myself! *(to audience)* He's such a wimp, he's not just afraid of heights his scared of widths too!

Walter: Sorry dear.

Camilla: *(turning to Hugh)* So get to it my man without further ado! Come along Walter, and for goodness sake stop looking so crest fallen! Ha ha ha, Cress fallen get it? Oh, Please yourselves!

Walter: Yes dear, coming dear.

Camilla sweeps out with Walter following looking sheepish. Mrs. Ch. Starts to cry

Hugh: Charming Mrs. Chopper!

Mrs. Chopper: The chips are down Mr. Chopper, what *are* we going to do?

*Hugh and wife stand holding hands and facing each other. Stage darkens
Characters freeze.*

Enter F. Nuff

Fairy Nuff: Would you believe it?! A nasty twist just when all the baby designing plans were going so well. I've really got my work cut out now. Hugh will just have to steal the cress at night and hope that Mad Donna is too busy training her elves to notice. She really is an evil old witch you know... So, when you see her you must boo and hiss, although not necessarily in that order of course... Do you need to practise? I noticed you weren't very good at shouting my name when I came in! Come along now, don't just sit there expecting to be entertained this isn't the West End you know. You have to work at a *(insert theatre company name)* show, that's why the tickets are so cheap!

Practise boo and hiss with audience

During set change, underscore music.

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Scene 2

*Mad Donna's garden at night – moonlight, owls hooting – bat circling. Witch, Dan and elves centre stage.
Tree centre back*

Tree: *(To audience)* Here we go again. More mischief afoot. I see it all you know. No one takes much notice of me but I'm actually very clever. A friend asked me what an acorn is. I said, "in a nutshell, it's an Oak tree."

Elf Star: Why are we out here in the cold when we could be inside watching "The Worst Witch" film on the tele?

Dan: You watch far too much television, why don't you educate yourself and read "Which" magazine instead? Besides, just you watch out...we don't want Mad Donna flying off the handle again.

Elfish Presley: The broom handle? *(falls about laughing)*

Dan clips him around the ear.

Mad Donna: It's the fault of that Hugh Chopper. The audacity of the man! Twice now he has dared to steal my cress. He thinks I don't know but I have been watching and waiting for the right time to catch him.

*Fairy Nuff pops around wings with card which says boo etc.
Audience boo and hiss*

Elf Yourself: So, tonight's the night, Donna?

Mad Donna: Oh, yes! We're going to put a stop to his little pranks!

Dan: We most certainly are! *(Dan is always getting under Mad Donna's feet and she is constantly sweeping him out of the way with her long and very full cloak)*

Elfish Presley: Can we practise our black magic on him?

Elfin Star: Shh...What's that noise?

Mad Donna: *(Gleefully)* I think he approaches, hide with me and we will watch.

Dan: Quick behind the tree.

Mad Donna pulls him into position. Dan and Mad Donna hide behind tree and elves hide in corner of stage behind a bush

Tree: *(Tree looking very fed up)* I was just standing here minding my own business and now this. I was just about to surf the net...I know how to Log in, you know.

Noises off... "shh she may be watching etc"

Hugh and Camilla enter stage left and stand behind fence.

Camilla: Get to it man. I need some more and make it a big bunch this time! I like big ones.

Dan: I'll give her big ones! The cheek of it!

Hugh: I wish I didn't have to do this again. We've been lucky so far that she's not seen us. We should call it quits while we're ahead.

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Camilla: Don't be such a coward. Get on with it – NOW! You want a house to live in with your new baby, don't you?

Hugh: How cruel you are. If it wasn't for my beloved wife and our expected baby I wouldn't be doing this.

Recorded music e.g. "Sorcerers Apprentice" or the like as Hugh tiptoes across the stage. Witch and Dan move the tree so that they are behind Hugh. Elf coughs.

Hugh: What was that?

Audience participation "It's the witch etc." Hugh spins around ...

Hugh: Where? I can't see anyone!

Audience again" she's behind you!"

Hugh: Oh no she's not! etc.

More audience participation, then Dan steps forward

Dan: *(to audience)* Be quiet you mealy mouthed load of snitches!

Witch and Dan keep moving the tree around to always be behind Hugh

Tree: This is getting very tiresome. I used to be solid and grounded!

Camilla: Oh, for goodness sake get on with it! A big bunch, mind.

Hugh: It's very dark...I can't find enough! *(louder)* I say I can't find enough!

Enter F. Nuff

Fairy Nuff: Did someone call me? *(bumps into Dan)* Uh oh, not a good time I think.... *Exits*

Hugh: I've got it, now let's get out of here!

Tree: At last!

Crash of thunder.... Dan leaps forward Witch follows.

Dan: Caught you red handed you little weasel!

Mad Donna: How dare you steal my cress!

Camilla: *(Shrieks)* I'm off!

Hugh: I had no choice Mad Donna. It was Lady Cress. She threatened to evict me from my home if I didn't steal the watercress for her.

Mad Donna: Well you won't be needing a home when you and your wife are turned to stone! *(cackles)* You can stand in my garden as statues! *(To audience)* That's fitting punishment don't you think?

Dan: It most certainly is.

Audience "Oh no it's not "etc.

Mad Donna: Oh yes it is! etc. *(Finally.)* Mind your own business. That's the trouble with you villagers, can't keep your noses out of other people's business!

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- Dan:** If you're not careful she'll sing to you and then you *will* be sorry!
- Tree:** He's right about that.
- Elf Pres:** Can I cast the spell Donna?
- Elf Yourself:** No let me!
- Elfin Stardust:** It will be fun, What sort of statues Donna?
- Elfish Presley:** They'd make great garden ornaments.
- Elf Yourself:** We could stand one here and one here.
- Dan:** We could make him into a gnome. He looks like a gnome.
- Tree:** Well don't stand him near me.
- Dan:** You be quiet! You're just a common tree.
- Tree:** How dare you. I'm not a common tree. I'm a woodland tree.
- Dan:** I know about trees. I have a dogwood tree you know!
- Tree:** Oh, what's it like?
- Dan:** A bit like you but it's bark is quieter!
- Elf Star:** Please let me turn them to stone Donna! It will be good practise.
- Mad Donna:** Shut up the lot of you while I try to remember the right spell.
- Dan:** Yes, do as you're told.
- Mad Donna:** *(to Dan, clipping him around the ear)* I meant you too.
- (Enter Mrs. Chopper)*
- Mrs. Chopper:** Hugh my dear. What's happening? I heard all the noise...
- Hugh:** Mad Donna is going to turn us to stone for stealing her cress.
- Mrs. Chopper:** Please, please not that, *anything* but that!
- Mad Donna:** I will release you on one condition, that you give me your new born baby.
- Hugh:** You couldn't be so cruel!
- Mad Donna:** Oh, yes I could! *(poss. Audience participation "Oh no you couldn't")* I've had years of practise!
- Tree:** I'm living proof of her cruelty. Only last week she lopped of one my branches without so much as a " by or leaf."
- Mrs. Chopper:** How could you do such a wicked thing?
- Dan:** Very easily, she's not prejudiced. She hates everybody equally.

Fairies enter holding cards saying boo and hiss.

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Song for Mad Donna and the elves:

Mad Donna: You can't look after a baby if you are turned to stone. Make your mind up.

Dan: Yes, make your mind up.

Mad Donna slaps Dan for interfering

Hugh: *(To audience)* Oh dear – What shall I do? Well I have often thought of myself as statuesque *(preening)* No, no, no! What am I thinking of?! I suppose we'll have to give up our child then... it's that or get stoned!

Mad Donna: *(cackles)* I'm glad you've seen sense. Don't worry. I'll look after her well. I've always wanted a child of my own...*(cackles)*

*Hugh and Mrs. Ch. Cling to each other sobbing–Crash of thunder.... Stage Darkens...
All exit*

Fairies enter. Hold up cards that say "Eight weeks later"

Voices off... A Baby's cry is heard -then from the wings we hear the following

Camilla: It's a boy!

Walter: We'll call him Chris, Master Chris Cress.

Second baby's cry

Mrs.Ch: Oh joy, a beautiful baby girl!

Hugh: We shall call her Rapunzel.

Loud scream is heard from off stage and then Mad Donna runs onto the stage clutching a baby.

Crash of thunder, Mad Donna centre stage, lets out a loud and evil cackle.

Mad Donna: Revenge is sweet and Rapunzel is mine at last!

Mad Donna runs down centre aisle shrieking with delight and cackling.

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- Mad Donna:** I just told them I was Mad Donna and they got all excited and let me in.
- Dan:** Thought we were the party entertainment.
- Fairy Nuff:** Do they all need glasses?
- Walter:** Well I don't know how you did it but you're not welcome.
- Camilla:** Ooh Walter, you're so masterful!
- Chris:** *(Points sword at Mad Donna.)* Not only are you not welcome, you're not staying! Either leave this house or I shall run my sword through you!
- Rapunzel:** Don't be too hard on her Chris. After all she brought me up for 21 years and in some ways, I see her as a mother figure.
- Dan:** Good grief, don't tell me someone likes her! It's really quite touching. *(Starts to cry)*
- Audience Aaah...*
- Mad Donna:** *(pushing Dan out of the way)* Oh Rapunzel. Could it be that you care for me...just a little?
- Rap** Well I rather think I do...Just a little.
- Audience Aaah...*
- Mad Donna:** This means that I am released from an evil spell that was cast on me many moons ago and I can return to being a white witch. You see, I needed the love of a child to break the spell.
- Throws off cape to reveal white outfit under.*
All cheer
- Camilla:** In that case Mad Donna, you *can* stay at the party.
- Fairy Nuff:** We shall rename you Donna and I think we can probably forgive you if you had a spell cast on you. *(To audience)* What do you think?
- Mad Donna:** *(Starts off humbly but starts to become stropky)*
Thank you all. You see, I'm quite a nice person really. I expect you all feel quite guilty for hissing and booing at me now. But *(ponderously)*...I think I might be prepared to forgive you...
- Fairy Nuff:** O.K. Donna that's enough!
- Elves:** No, you're Fairy Nuff.
- Fairy Nuff:** Yes, quite right- Well perhaps we can all be good friends now.
- Mrs. Chopper:** To good friends. *(raises a glass)*
- All:** To good friends
- Fairy Nuff:** I've just got one more spell to cast...
- May the sun always shine on the happy couple and in good panto tradition may they live happily ever after.

Finale song