



Happily Never After: a fairy tale gone bad

SCRIPT EXCERPT

CASY

Mother Goose
Brick Pig
Red Riding Hood
Hansel
Gretel
Sleeping Beauty
Alice
Chicken Little
Prince Charming
Big Bad Wolf
Little Big Bad Wolf
Gingerbread Witch
The Thirteenth Fairy
The Queen of Hearts
Three Playing Cards
Stick Pig
Straw Pig
Damsels in Distress

Songs

Happily Ever After.....	Ensemble
Big and Bad.....	Big Bad Wolf, Witch, Fairy, Queen
Distress.....	Damsels, Prince Charming
Keep on Believin'	Mother Goose, Good Guys
Chase.....	Instrumental, Bad Guys
Finale Act One	Bad Guys
Opening Act Two.....	Fairy, Witch, Queen, Beauty, Alice, Riding Hood
Keep On Believin' Reprise	Mother Goose, Little Big Bad Wolf
The King of Everything	Big Bad Wolf
Deep Inside	Chicken Little
The Charming Rescue.....	Prince Charming
The Great Library Chase.....	Instrumental
Finale.....	Ensemble

ACT ONE

Scene Three

The forest. Sitting on the ground are what appear to be flimsy handmade castle turrets. The GOOD GUYS enter in single file, searching for feathers.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

It's so dark here.

BRICK PIG

I can't see the trail of feathers any more.

RED RIDING HOOD

Great. We're going to fall into a bottomless pit and never get out. Or, or, walk into a giant spider's web and get spun to death. Or get eaten by ogres or attacked by goblins who'll petrify us or turn us into horrible, gnarly ugly trees.

HANSEL

Speaking of eating

GRETEL

Anyone got any food?

HANSEL

Cake?

GRETEL

Gingerbread

HANSEL

Broccoli.

GRETEL

Broccoli?

HANSEL

I'm desperate.

GRETEL

Say, what's in your basket o' goodies?

RED RIDING HOOD

The wolf took my basket o' goodies. We're going to starve, I tell you, starve until we look like weird deformed creatures made out of twigs, and we're going to collapse in our tracks and our bones are going to crackle into dust. Wait, is this a cookie?

(SHE finds a cookie in her pocket. SHE and HANSEL and GRETEL wrestle each other for it.)

HANSEL/GRETEL

Food! Food!

BRICK PIG

Guys, guys, we can't fight ourselves! We need to save our strength so we can find the way to Mother Goose's castle! We need a plan!

SLEEPING BEAUTY

A plan. We're all ears; go ahead.

BRICK PIG

Ummmm....

SLEEPING BEAUTY

That's what I thought.

ALICE

Why don't I grow tall again and see where we are?

BRICK PIG

Because that worked so well last time....

(There's a sudden flicker of something white in one of the windows of one of the turrets. Everyone jumps.)

DAMSEL #1

Help, help, rescue me!

(A SECOND DAMSEL appears at the second turret, waving a white silk.)

DAMSEL #2

No, don't help her. Help me.

DAMSEL #3

(appearing)
No, help me.

(Other DAMSELS start appearing in various
turrets and towers.)

DAMSELS

(ad-lib; popping up)
No, help me! Distress! Distress!

BRICK PIG

Are you in trouble? Can we help you?

DAMSEL #1

Wait a minute. You're a pig.

BRICK PIG

So?

DAMSEL #1

Girls, girls, hang on a second.

(The DAMSELS settle down and grow quiet.)

DAMSEL #1

It's just a pig.

BRICK PIG

I'm not sure I like the way you said that.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Wait a minute. These turrets aren't real. What're they made
out of?

HANSEL/GRETEL

Gingerbread?!!

(HANSEL and GRETEL take bites out of the
turrets.)

DAMSEL #4

Hey, watch that -- I made it myself.

HANSEL

(makes gagging sounds)

HANSEL/GRETEL

They're made out of cardboard!

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Cardboard! You don't need rescuing!

DAMSEL #1

Sure we do.

DAMSEL #2

We all need rescuing.

DAMSEL #3

But not by you guys.

DAMSEL #4

We need to be rescued by....

DAMSELS

Prince Charming!

PRINCE CHARMING

(from off)

Did someone say rescue?

(Swinging in on a golden rope, his perfect locks glinting almost as much as his perfect teeth, is PRINCE CHARMING.)

DAMSELS

Prince Charming! Swooooon!

PRINCE CHARMING

Hello, damsels. Who needs rescuing today?

DAMSELS

We do, we do!

DAMSEL #3

He's so dreamy!

DAMSELS

Dreamy. Swooooon!

PRINCE CHARMING

I am kinda good-lookin', aren't I?

SLEEPING BEAUTY

So are you going to save them, or do we need to?

PRINCE CHARMING

(spying SLEEPING BEAUTY, putting on his bedroom eyes)

Hel-lo....

SLEEPING BEAUTY

You don't remember me, do you?

PRINCE CHARMING

Have we met?

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Sleeping Beauty? Ring a bell?

PRINCE CHARMING

Mmmm....

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Thousand years of sleep, snore, snore, you kiss me, I wake up.

PRINCE CHARMING

I save so many damsels.

DAMSELS

Save me, save me!

PRINCE CHARMING

Very well. Today, I'll rescue one, and only one of you!

DAMSEL #2

Me, me!

DAMSELS

Me, me, me!

PRINCE CHARMING

(to the GOOD GUYS)

Stand aside, everyone. Watch this.

(to the DAMSELS, egging them on; showing off)

Let me hear some nice loud cries for help. Loudest cry gets rescued.

DAMSELS

(suddenly agitated)
I'M JUST A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS
ATTEMPTING VAINLY TO IMPRESS
PRINCE CHARMING
AND MAKE HIM SEE
THE BEAUTIFUL AND CAPTIVATING CAPTIVE GIRL
THAT HE SHOULD SAVE IS ME.

VARIOUS DAMSELS

It's me! It's me! It's me! It's me!

DAMSELS

I'M TRAPPED BEHIND THIS CASTLE WALL
AND NOWHERE NEAR A SHOPPING MALL!
AN ALARMING CATASTROPHE.
TOO BAD THERE'S NOT SOME CHARMING MAN
TO COME AND LEND A HELPING HAND TO ME.

VARIOUS DAMSELS

To me! To me, me, me, me me!

DAMSELS

DISTRESS! DISTRESS!
I NEED A SAVIOR TO SET ME FREE.
DISTRESS! DISTRESS!
WHY WON'T HE JUST PICK ME?

SLEEPING BEAUTY

But ladies. These turrets are made of cardboard. If you
just --

DAMSELS

Shhh!

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Ladies, you don't have to have a prince rescue you.

DAMSELS

We do, we do! Because we're damsels in distress!

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Whatever.

HANSEL

If you'll just tell us

GRETEL

How to get to Mother Goose's castle....

DAMSELS

IS THERE NO ONE
BRAVE AND STRONG ENOUGH TO SAVE ME?

PRINCE CHARMING

YES, THERE'S ONE MAN
BRAVE AND STRONG ENOUGH TO SAVE THEE.

DAMSELS

IS HE A DUKE, AN EARL, A BARON OR A KING?

PRINCE CHARMING

YOU KNOW MY NAME, LET'S HEAR IT:

DAMSELS

PRINCE CHARMING!
(spoken)

Swoon!

PRINCE CHARMING

I love being needed.

DAMSELS

DISTRESS! DISTRESS!
I NEED A SAVIOR TO SET ME FREE.
DISTRESS! DISTRESS!
WON'T YOU PLEASE JUST PICK ME?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STUCK FOREVER IN THIS DRESS,
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT DISTRESS!
I DON'T DESERVE IT!
THIS AGONY.
WELL, IT WOULD SURE BE SWELL
IF A CUTE BOY SAVED ME FROM THIS CELL.
PRINCE CHARMING, PLEASE RESCUE ME!

(BIG BAD WOLF appears in a tree, unseen by
anyone else. HE has the book.)

BIG BAD WOLF

Prince Charming....Once upon a time, Prince Charming wasn't so
charming after all.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Look, Prince, you know, you're really not all that charming.

PRINCE CHARMING

What? What!?

(BIG BAD WOLF laughs, then disappears.)

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Not remembering my name, forgetting we ever met, not so charming. And look, ladies, his nose isn't perfectly straight, is it? Is it?

DAMSELS

(hushed whispering/murmuring)

SLEEPING BEAUTY

And one of his arms is longer than the other.

DAMSEL #3

Now that you mention it....

DAMSEL #2

And that hair. That can't be his natural color.

DAMSEL #4

And for a prince, he kinda has a high voice.

PRINCE CHARMING

What's going on here?

BRICK PIG

I think your happy ending has been stolen.

PRINCE CHARMING

My happy ending, stolen? That's impossible. Because I'm...Prince Charming! Isn't that right, ladies?

(The DAMSELS yawn.)

PRINCE CHARMING

Uh-oh. Quick, pig, tell me how to get my happy ending back.

BRICK PIG

We've had our happy endings stolen so we're going to rescue Mother Goose to get them back.

PRINCE CHARMING

I'll come along with you to rescue Mother Goose. That is, unless you ladies can't possibly do without me....

DAMSELS

(spoken)

Yawn.

PRINCE CHARMING

That does it, I'm coming with you.

(The BIG BAD WOLF appears in the trees again.)

ALICE

You didn't happen to see a couple of wolves go through here?

DAMSEL #3

(pointing, off)

Oh sure, had a big goose with them in a cart.

DAMSEL #4

They went that way. Follow the feathers to Mother Goose's castle.

HANSEL/GRETEL

Mother Goose's castle!

BIG BAD WOLF

Feathers! Ohhh, that Goose!

BRICK PIG

Come on everyone, let's go!

GOOD GUYS

(ad-lib)

Thanks a lot. You've been a great help.

HANSEL

Don't suppose you have any food on you?

GRETEL

For the road?

DAMSELS

Sorry.

GOOD GUYS

Bye, bye! See you later! Thanks for everything. Bye now.

(The Good Guys and the Prince all run off in the direction the Prince has pointed.)

BIG BAD WOLF

Oh no, you don't. Once upon a time, all the good guys headed off in the wrong direction.

(The Good Guys suddenly decide *en masse* to turn around and go the other direction, mowing down the Damsels in their path.)

BIG BAD WOLF

And then the right direction.

(The Good Guys turn around again.)

BIG BAD WOLF

And then the wrong direction again.

(The Good Guys turn around again, and leave the stage.)

BIG BAD WOLF

And they ran right into a woodcutter's tool shed.

(Offstage crash!)

BIG BAD WOLF

And once upon a time suddenly the damsels decided Prince Charming was Charming again.

DAMSELS

Wait, don't go! Stay here and rescue us!

DAMSEL #3

He's gone.

DAMSEL #2

Over my dead body. He's gonna rescue me if it's the last thing he does!

(DAMSEL #2 plucks up her turret and runs after PRINCE CHARMING.)

DAMSEL #1

He's not gonna rescue her, and not me!

(DAMSEL #1 picks up her turret and runs off as well.)

DAMSEL #3

Wait for me.

DAMSELS

(ad-lib)

Wait for me, wait for me! Oh, Prince Charming...!

(All the DAMSELS run off, except DAMSEL #3, who has troubles picking up her turret.)

BIG BAD WOLF

I love this book. Woof-woof, haroo! Now, about those feathers.

(The BIG BAD WOLF disappears. At that moment, CHICKEN LITTLE comes racing through.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

Look out, look out, the sky is falling, the sky is falling.

(A large piece of the sky falls and lands on DAMSEL #3, knocking her out. CHICKEN LITTLE tends to her.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

Ooo, sorry. I gotta stop saying that. Are you okay?

DAMSEL #3

(reviving; confused when she sees CHICKEN LITTLE)
My...hero...?

CHICKEN LITTLE

No, I'm just a chicken. It's just the sky falls whenever I say "The sky is...."

(A large angular piece of sky swings downwards threateningly, but does not yet fall. CHICKEN LITTLE looks up at it.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

fall...

(The sky swings further, hanging by a thread. CHICKEN LITTLE takes a step to his left.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

ing.

(The sky comes crashing down, right where CHICKEN LITTLE was. DAMSEL #3 scrambles away.)

DAMSEL #1

Distress, distress!

(CHICKEN LITTLE looks up.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

(quickly)

Skysfallng.

(A tiny piece of sky poots down from above.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

(a lightbulb)

Hey...I suddenly got a plan...! Chicken Little to the rescue!

(CHICKEN LITTLE races off. Blackout.)

ACT ONEScene Four

A Tower inside Mother Goose's castle. MOTHER GOOSE is in an oversized rocking chair. LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF is near the door, chaining, bolting, barring, roping and locking it. A small window overlooks the forest, far too small for MOTHER GOOSE to fly out. BIG BAD WOLF holds a fistful of feathers up to MOTHER GOOSE's face.

BIG BAD WOLF

And, Mother Goose, what're these? Huh? What are these?

MOTHER GOOSE

If I say feathers, will you let me go?

BIG BAD WOLF

Feathers. And where do you think I found these feathers?

MOTHER GOOSE

Probably in the forest. I left them as a trail so my friends could find me.

BIG BAD WOLF

Exactly! But see, I've spoiled your little plan. I picked up all the feathers! And now, I'm locking you in this tower so they can't find you. It's no more Mr. Nice Wolf!

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

Uh, big brother? I think I locked my tail in the door.

MOTHER GOOSE

You can unlock all those, I won't try to escape. My friends will rescue me.

BIG BAD WOLF

Rescue you, ha, ha! All that's going to happen is your trail of feathers is going to lead right to the castle door, and I'll lock them in the dungeon forever! Woof-woof-harooo!

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

Uh, big brother, my tail?

MOTHER GOOSE

Here's my question for you. How are those feathers going to lead them through the forest, now that you've picked them all up?

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

Ha, she got you there, big brother.

BIG BAD WOLF

(thinks; then:)

I'll put them back.

MOTHER GOOSE

If you're going to put them back, they're going to find me.

BIG BAD WOLF

No, they're going to find me.

MOTHER GOOSE

You're standing right next to me.

BIG BAD WOLF

Well, I won't be for long.

MOTHER GOOSE

Your little brother has locked us all in here.

BIG BAD WOLF

I have keys.

(BIG BAD WOLF goes to LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF and starts unchaining, unbolting, unbarring, unroping and unlocking the door.)

BIG BAD WOLF

What're you doing, brother? I'm trying to be big and scary here.

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

I can be scary too. Let me just...unlock...these....

MOTHER GOOSE

Look, what you want, isn't it just a nice happy ending?

BIG BAD WOLF

Sure. That and some good devastation and havoc.

MOTHER GOOSE

There's a simple way to get yourself a happy ending. Just do good things.

BIG BAD WOLF

Oh, please.

MOTHER GOOSE

Trust me. It's always the good guys who get good rewards for doing good things.

(BIG BAD WOLF isn't helping with the locks very much, and HE and LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF are getting entangled in the chains and ropes, a fact they're trying to hide from MOTHER GOOSE.)

MOTHER GOOSE

AS YOU GO ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF WRITING
THE STORY THAT IS YOUR LIFE,
IN CHAPTER ONE, IT'S FAIRLY CLEAR
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO.

BUT CHAPTERS TWO AND THREE AND FOUR
BECOME A BIT MORE COMPLEX.
YOU JUST MIGHT NEED SOME HELP
TO SEE YOU THROUGH.
WELL, I'VE WRITTEN LOTS OF STORIES,
I'VE TOLD A TALE OR TWO
AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I'VE LEARNED
I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU.

(BIG BAD WOLF has finally succeeded in disentangling the chains, and now wraps MOTHER GOOSE in some of them, with assistance from LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF.)

MOTHER GOOSE

YOU MUST TRY BELIEVING
THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BE
IS TO BE HONEST.
WHEN YOU DO GOOD THINGS
YOUR STORY WILL END HAPPILY.

MOTHER GOOSE/LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF
KEEP ON BELIEVING.
HAVE FAITH IT'LL ALL WORK OUT --

BIG BAD WOLF
What're you doing?

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF
Catchy tune.

BIG BAD WOLF
Not for wolves. Now help me chain her up and we'll roast her in
front of her friends!

MOTHER GOOSE
(over the action)
AND KNOW THAT GOOD DEEDS ARE THEIR OWN REWARD
THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.
NOW IT ISN'T ALWAYS EASY
TO DO THE THINGS YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD.
THERE'S SURE TO BE TEMPTATION
ALONG THE WAY.
BUT YOU ALWAYS MUST REMEMBER
YOU'RE THE AUTHOR OF IT ALL.
AND HOW IT ENDS IS
MAINLY YOURS TO SAY.

(BIG BAD WOLF hands LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF a
chain, but LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF looks
sheepish, and doesn't take it.)

BIG BAD WOLF
You're either with me, or you're against me.

(LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF looks between BIG BAD
WOLF and MOTHER GOOSE, torn.)

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF
I can't decide.

BIG BAD WOLF
Her or me. The Goose or your brother.

(LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF drops the chains on the
floor.)

BIG BAD WOLF

Then stay here with her!

(BIG BAD WOLF wraps both LITTLE BAD WOLF and MOTHER GOOSE in chains. BIG BAD WOLF slams and locks the tower door, locking his brother alone with MOTHER GOOSE. Dramatic lighting from the window, the sole source of light in the tower, spotlighting a very confused LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF.)

MOTHER GOOSE/LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

DON'T LET THE NASTY PEOPLE
OR THE NASTY WAY THEY PLAY
AFFECT THE WAY YOU LIVE
FROM DAY TO DAY.

(Lights rise on another part of the forest; the GOOD GUYS are making their way in the opposite direction of the castle.)

BRICK PIG

Okay, I admit it. We're totally lost.

HANSEL/GRETEL

Lost and hungry.

RED RIDING HOOD

Lost, hungry, and doomed. Just a matter of time before the buzzards find us.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Can I just say being around you is really really depressing?

BRICK PIG

What would Mother Goose do?

RED RIDING HOOD

Well, first of all, Mother Goose would fly.

BRICK PIG

But after that. If she got depressed or scared or lost...she'd sing, wouldn't she?

GOOD GUYS

(ad-lib)

Yeah, that's right! She'd sing! We should try that...!

MOTHER GOOSE/GOOD GUYS/LITTLE BIG
BAD WOLF

KEEP ON BELIEVING
THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BE
IS TO BE HONEST.
WHEN YOU GOOD THINGS
YOUR STORY WILL END HAPPILY.
KEEP ON BELIEVING.
HAVE FAITH IT'LL ALL WORK OUT.
AND KNOW THAT GOOD DEEDS ARE THEIR OWN REWARD
THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.
ETC. (repeat)

(Lights change to:)

ACT ONE

Scene Five

The forest. The DAMSELS run through the forest, still wearing their turrets around their waists.

DAMSELS

(ad-lib)
Distress, distress! Rescue me, rescue me!

DAMSEL #1

(ill)
I shouldn't've had such a big breakfast this morning.

DAMSEL #2

Whole different kind of distress.

DAMSEL #3

I think I see him.

DAMSELS

Prince Charming, Prince Charming, Prince Charming!

(THEY go. As the lights fade to:)

ACT ONE

Scene Six

The castle gate; a tall wooden door with knocker. THIRTEENTH FAIRY, THE GINGERBREAD WITCH and the QUEEN OF HEARTS are wearing battle gear. At their feet is a large square of wooden flooring. Four separate sets of prison bars lean up against the castle wall. THIRTEENTH FAIRY hoists one of the bars up on end; THE GINGERBREAD WITCH hoists a different one. THE QUEEN OF HEARTS eats tarts.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Okay, hurry. We need to get this cage built before the Good Guys get here or we'll never catch 'em all.

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

Ready, hup, hup hup!

(THEY lean their prison bars against each other on the wooden floor for an instant; the THIRTEENTH FAIRY rushes to grab a third one to lean up against the first two, but THE GINGERBREAD WITCH can't hold them steady, and they fall over.)

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Whoa, whoa, ahhh!

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

Clumsy.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Well, I don't know how to build cages; I only know how to bake.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

(off the tarts)

Yeah, and pretty good, too.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

(shrieks when she sees the QUEEN eating)
Those aren't for you! They're for the Big Bad Wolf!

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

"Ohhh, Big Bad Wolf, you're so handsome!" You make me sick.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

If I don't call him handsome, he'll roast me on a spit.

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

Coward.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

You take that back.

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

I won't.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

You will.

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

I won't.

(The THIRTEENTH FAIRY grabs her WAND, but the WITCH bends it like a drinking straw and it zaps the QUEEN instead.)

QUEEN OF HEARTS

(incensed)
Oh! Oh! Off with your head!

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Make me.

(The three women brawl.)

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

(suddenly hearing something)
The Good Guys are coming!

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Quick! Hide! Then on the count of three, rush out and herd them all onto the platform, and build the cage around them!

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

Got it!

(A scramble: BAD GUYS hide out of sight.
The GOOD GUYS come up to the gate, marching
optimistically.)

GOOD GUYS

... STICK TOGETHER AND FOLLOW THE FEATHER.
THE GOOD GUYS ARE ON THE LOOSE.
WE'RE COMING, MOTHER GOOSE!

HANSEL/GRETEL

Okay, now what?

GOOD GUYS

Brick Pig's got a plan....

BRICK PIG

Ummmm.

RED RIDING HOOD

We're doomed.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

I'll knock.

HANSEL

We were here first

GRETEL

so we'll knock first.

(ALICE is on her hands and knees, banging
her head at the bottom of the door.)

ALICE

It's all right. I've made myself so small, I'll crawl
underneath the door and let you guys in!

BRICK PIG

Alice, you're not small.

ALICE

Sure I am.

HANSEL/GRETEL

(trying to eat the walls)

If the walls are made out of gingerbread we can eat our way in!

SLEEPING BEAUTY

(pulling out a mirror, reflecting the sun)

I'll try to signal some forest creatures for help.

RED RIDING HOOD

(wandering off)

What's the point? Let's just give up now.

BRICK PIG

No, wait.

HANSEL

Ow! That's just like eating stone.

BRICK PIG

Guys, we need a plan, we need a plan!

(CHICKEN LITTLE rushes in.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

Oh, there you are! Finally.

BRICK PIG

Chicken Little! What're you doing here?

CHICKEN LITTLE

I came to help.

RED RIDING HOOD

You're too small to help.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Yeah, we really need big people.

CHICKEN LITTLE

C'mon, I've got a plan.

BRICK PIG

Sorry, Chicken Little, you might get hurt.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

We have a rescue we're trying to pull off here.

(PRINCE CHARMING swings in on a golden rope.)

PRINCE CHARMING

Did someone say rescue? I've come to save you all, because I'm...Prince Charming.

(spies SLEEPING BEAUTY as though for the first time)
Hel-lo. Have we met?

SLEEPING BEAUTY

(hands him her mirror)
Have a mirror.

PRINCE CHARMING

(fascinated by his reflection in the mirror)
Hey!

GINGERBREAD WITCH

(from off)
Three, two, one!

(Suddenly the GINGERBREAD WITCH, THIRTEENTH FAIRY and QUEEN OF HEARTS swoop in, grab three of the walls of the cage, and chase after the GOOD GUYS, trying to herd them onto the wooden platform.)

WITCH/FAIRY/QUEEN

Get 'em!

(Everyone scatters in a million directions, chasing, and being chased. Ad-lib noise and dialogue. PRINCE CHARMING hides and cowers.
Act One Chase Finale.)

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Herd them all together!

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

Build the cage around them!

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Off with their heads, off with their heads!

(The three BAD GUYS succeed in herding all the GOOD GUYS onto the platform, except PRINCE CHARMING, who remains cowering, and

CHICKEN LITTLE, who remains unnoticed. The BAD BUYS erect three of the four walls of the cage around the rest of the GOOD GUYS.)

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

Now for the fourth wall of the cage!

GINGERBREAD WITCH

I'll get it.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

No, I'll get it!

(All three BAD GUYS go to fetch the fourth wall of the cage. Which leaves, of course, one side of the cage completely open.)

BRICK PIG

Uhhh.

RED RIDING HOOD

Don't tell 'em. Just run!

(The GOOD GUYS run off the platform. But their flight is cut short with the sudden and ominous entrance of the BIG BAD WOLF, clutching the Book.)

BIG BAD WOLF

Going somewhere?

ALICE

We were just --

BIG BAD WOLF

Once upon a time. All the Good Guys....

GOOD GUYS

(scream!)

(The GOOD GUYS scream, drowning out the rest of the BIG BAD WOLF's sentence, but then suddenly nothing comes out of the mouths of the GOOD GUYS, although they're apparently still screaming as if their lives depended upon it.)

GINGERBREAD WITCH

All the good guys, what, what?

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

He must've said they couldn't scream any more.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Oh, clever.

(The GOOD GUYS start to run.)

BIG BAD WOLF

And they couldn't run any more.

(The GOOD GUYS freeze in their tracks.)

BIG BAD WOLF

And they began to walk forwards. One. Step. At a time. Into. The. Cage.

(The GOOD GUYS move against their will, each taking steps at exactly the same time.)

GINGERBREAD WITCH

The cage, the cage, that's us!

(GINGERBREAD WITCH, THIRTEENTH FAIRY and QUEEN OF HEARTS build the three walls of the cage again; fastening the walls together, as the GOOD GUYS walk straight into them.)

The BIG BAD WOLF gives BRICK PIG and RED RIDING HOOD a shove into the cage. The QUEEN OF HEARTS shoves ALICE into the cage. GINGERBREAD WITCH captures HANSEL and GRETEL; the THIRTEENTH FAIRY captures SLEEPING BEAUTY.)

BIG BAD WOLF

That's for my no breakfast and getting killed by sunset, every day of my life!

GINGERBREAD WITCH

That's for putting me in the oven!

QUEEN OF HEARTS

That's for calling me a pack of cards.

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

That's for not inviting me to your party!

GINGERBREAD WITCH

That still doesn't seem very --

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

SHE HURT MY FEELINGS!

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Never mind, off with their heads!

(All the GOOD GUYS are in the cart except for PRINCE CHARMING and CHICKEN LITTLE. PRINCE CHARMING pops up, smoothing his hair.)

PRINCE CHARMING

Right. I'm ready to help now.

(Against his will, PRINCE CHARMING joins the rest of the group, marching straight into the cage.)

PRINCE CHARMING

Whoa. What's --

(PRINCE CHARMING's mouth moves as though to finish the sentence ("...happening to me"), but nothing further comes out of his mouth.)

BIG BAD WOLF

Cage them, cage them all and take them to the dungeon!

(PRINCE CHARMING walks into the cage. THE QUEEN OF HEARTS, THIRTEENTH FAIRY and THE GINGERBREAD WITCH put the fourth wall of the cage around the GOOD GUYS as CHICKEN LITTLE appears.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

Not. So. Fast!

BIG BAD WOLF

Ehh, you're too small.

CHICKEN LITTLE

What! I am not! Take me, take me too!

(The Bad Guys celebrate their victory,
ignoring CHICKEN LITTLE.)

CHICKEN LITTLE

What about me, what about me?!

BAD GUYS

HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
THE TIME IS HERE
IT'S OUR BIG YEAR.
THE BAD GUYS' TURN.
LET'S HEAR A BIG CHEER!
WE'VE STOLEN THE GOOD GUYS' LAUGHTER.
WE'VE GOT A NOOSE
ON MOTHER GOOSE.

BIG BAD WOLF

By the hairs on our chinny chin chin!

BAD GUYS

IT'S THE BAD GUYS' TURN TO WIN!

(The BAD GUYS roll the cage away as the GOOD
GUYS silently yell and scream for help.
Blackout.)