

John Donald O'Shea

Adapted from the 1903 book and lyrics by Glen MacDonough
Music by Victor Herbert

Norman Maine Publishing

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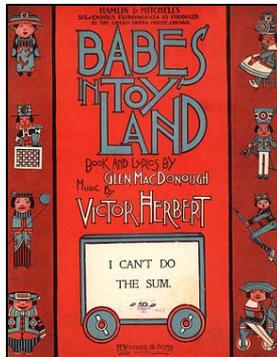
Babes in Toyland

HOLIDAY MUSICAL. This adaptation of the classic 1903 holiday musical by Glen MacDonough will charm audiences of all ages with its music by Victor Herbert and its 14 fabulous songs including “Toyland” and “March of the Toys.” In order to steal their fortune, villainous lawyer Barnaby Blatherskite drugs Jane and Barney, rolls them up in rugs, and has his bumbling henchmen, Stanley and Oliver, deliver them to the Forest Queen for “disposal.” But Oliver and Stanley decide to double-cross Barnaby, keep the Forest Queen’s \$1,000 “disposal” fee for themselves, and dump their human cargo in the Forbidden Forest of No Return. When Jane and Barney awaken in the Forbidden Forest, they encounter the Forest Queen, who has been captured in the evil Spider Captain’s web. Jane and Barney manage to free the Queen before the Spider Captain can eat her. Meanwhile, Barnaby Blatherskite visits Mary Contrary and informs her that Barney is dead and offers his hand in marriage. Frightened, Mary and her brother, Tom, flee to the Forbidden Forest, where they are captured by the Forest Queen’s tree soldiers. Out of gratitude for freeing her from the spider web, the Forest Queen arranges for Barney, Jane, Tom, and Mary to be escorted to Toyland. However, Barnaby Blatherskite and his henchman arrive at Santa’s workshop in Toyland and disguise themselves as toy bag inspectors in order to kidnap Mary. But before the villains can make their escape on Santa’s sleigh, they have to battle a troop of Toy Soldiers.

Performance Time: Approximately 120 minutes.

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(Sheet music cover, 1903)

About the Story

“Babes in Toyland” was first produced on June 17, 1903 at the Chicago Grand Opera House and then premiered on Broadway at the Majestic Theater on October 13, 1903. “Babes in Toyland” contains many of Victor Herbert’s most famous songs like “Toyland,” “March of the Toys,” and “I Can’t Do the Sum” and has become a holiday classic.

Characters

(13 M, 11 F, 14 flexible, chorus, extras)

(With doubling: 12 M, 11 F, 4 flexible, extras)

BARNABY BLATHERSKITE: Rich, villainous lawyer who is the uncle and guardian of Jane and Barney; carries a cane.

OLIVER: Barnaby's bumbling henchman.

STANLEY: Barnaby's bumbling henchman; wears a sweater.

JANE: Barnaby's niece who is in love with Tom.

BARNEY: Barnaby's nephew who is in love with Contrary Mary.

TOM: Widow Piper's eldest son who is in love with Jane.

CONTRARY MARY: Widow Piper's eldest daughter.

WIDOW PIPER: Mother of Tom, Mary, and 12 other children.

GLADYS: Barnaby's adoring mother.

QUEEN OF THE FOREST: Queen of the Forbidden Forest of No Return.

SPIDER CAPTAIN: Villainous spider who spins large webs in the Forbidden Forest of No Return; wears a spider costume; male.

LORD HIGH MAYOR: Mayor of Toyland; flexible.

CORPORAL: Mayor's bailiff; flexible.

PRIVATE: Mayor's second bailiff; flexible.

CAPTAIN: Leader of the Toy Soldiers; flexible.

MAJOR: Leader of Toy Soldier Special Forces; flexible.

TOYMAKER: Santa's first assistant; flexible.

SANTA CLAUS: Wears a traditional Santa suit.

CREEPING WILLOW: Willow tree and Queen's soldier; flexible.

LIVE OAK: Live Oak tree and Queen's soldier; flexible.

JACK PINE: Pine tree and Queen's soldier; flexible.

BRASH ASH: Ash tree and Queen's soldier; flexible.

BIG MOUTH MAPLE: Maple tree and Queen's soldier; flexible.

ENGLISH WALNUT: Walnut tree and Queen's soldier; flexible.

TREES 1, 2: Queen's soldiers; flexible.

BO PEEP: Town shepherdess who has lost her sheep; carries a shepherd's crook.

MISS MUFFET: Townsperson; sits on a tuffet.

RED RIDING HOOD: Townsperson.

JILL: Townsperson.

JACK: Townsperson.

SALLIE WATERS: Townsperson.

CURLY LOCKS: Townsperson.

PETER: Townsperson.

TOMMY TUCKER: Townsperson.

SIMPLE SIMON: Townsperson.

BOBBY SHAFTOE: Townsperson.

BOY BLUE: Townsperson.

FIRST LIEUTENANT: Forest Queen's First Lieutenant; flexible.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: Forest Queen's Second Lieutenant; non-speaking; flexible.

POLICEMAN 1, 2: Policemen who work for Lord High Mayor; non-speaking; wear police uniforms; flexible.

TOY SOLDIERS: Responsible for defending Toyland; non-speaking; flexible.

CHORUS: Townspeople, Trees, and Toy Soldiers.

EXTRAS: As Reindeer and Forest Creatures and as additional Townspeople, Trees, and Toy Soldiers.

DOUBLING: The Chorus can be comprised of Townspeople who can double as Trees and Toy Soldiers. However, there should be a minimum of 16 in the Chorus.

Songs

1. "Never Mind, Bo Peep" (Tom, Bo Peep, Jack, Jill, Boy Blue, Sallie, Townspeople)
2. "If You Really Want To Win The Girl" (Gladys, Barnaby)
3. "If We Had No Uncle Barnaby" (Barney, Jane, Barnaby)
4. "Barney O'Flynn" (Mary, Widow)
5. "I Fear That I Don't Understand" (Oliver, Barnaby, Stanley)
6. "Forest Trees, Who Are These?" (Trees)
7. "Let Us Steal Away" (Tom, Mary)
8. "We Won't Be Happy While We're Hungry" (Tom, Mary, Trees)
9. "From Their Deep, Deathlike Sleep" (Jane, Barney, Trees)
10. "If You Will Please Follow Me" (Mary, Tom, Jane, Barney, First Lieutenant, Chorus)
11. "Toyland" (Mayor, Chorus)
12. "We Cleverly Affected Our Escape" (Stanley, Oliver, Barnaby)
13. "The March of the Toys" (Instrumental)
14. "Toyland" (Toymaker, Chorus)

Setting

Blatherskite Manor, the stately but dilapidated house of Barnaby Blatherskite. The Forbidden Forest of No Return, home of the Forest Queen and evil Spider Captain. The magical land of Toyland, home of Santa Claus.

Sets

Blatherskite Manor Garden Party. Two flats can be used to create the façade of Blatherskite Manor.

Blatherskite Manor Parlor. The reverse side of the flats can be used to represent the back wall of the parlor. There is a desk and chair.

Mary Contrary's Cottage Garden. Two more flats can be used to represent the cottage façade. Low picket fences can be placed downstage.

Forbidden Forest of No Return. There is a forest backdrop with prop trees.

Forest Queen's Throne Room. The two flats used to represent Blatherskite Manor Parlor can be used with embellishments added to make the room look royal. There is a throne for the Queen.

Lord High Mayor's Courtroom. There is a judge's bench.

Reindeer Stables. Flats can be used to represent the back wall of the stables.

Toymaker's Shop. The reverse side of the stable flat can be used to represent the back wall. There is a work table, three chairs, and a "window."

NOTE: Sets can be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows.

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: Blatherskite Manor, a garden party.

Scene 2: Parlor of Blatherskite Manor, mid-morning, the next day.

Scene 3: Parlor of Blatherskite Manor, early afternoon.

Scene 4: Mary's cottage garden, early evening.

Scene 5: Parlor of Blatherskite Manor.

Scene 6: At the edge of the Forbidden Forest of No Return.

Scene 7: Mary's cottage garden.

Intermission

ACT II

Scene 1: Forbidden Forest of No Return.

Scene 2: Forbidden Forest of No Return, another part of the forest.

Scene 3: The Forbidden Forest of No Return, the throne room of the Queen of the Forest.

Act III

Scene 1: Toyland, Office of the Lord High Mayor.

Scene 2: Toyland, Santa's reindeer stables, three months later.

Scene 3: Toyland, the Toymaker's workshop.

Scene 4: Toymaker's workshop, moments later.

Props

Tuffet, for Miss Muffet	Manacles
Map	Bear trap
Food and beverages	Large bowl or bucket of reindeer food
Shepherd's crook	Grooming brush for horses
Cane	Burlap material
Small shovel	Large burlap toy bags
Account books	Large toy train
2 Books	Mickey Mouse ears
Bottle of "chloroform"	Pair of glasses with big nose
2 Rugs (Large enough to wrap around one person)	Disguise for Barnaby
3 Champagne glasses	Needle and thread
Case	Rope
Cart or wheelbarrow	Pop guns, for Toy Soldiers
Envelope	Rack of balls (Basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, foam rubber balls, etc.)
Letter	2 Plastic Wiffle ball bats
Money (\$1,000)	Doll's parasol
2 Sailor suits, for Ollie and Stanley	Rag dolls
2 Small suitcases or sacks	Teddy bears
Sweater with string trailing, for Stanley	3 Pairs of toy handcuffs
Ball of string	Spider costume, for Tom (Identical to Spider Captain's)
Gavel	Wrapped Christmas presents
9 Travel visas	Boots, for Oliver, Stanley and Barnaby
2 Giant spider webs	
Branch	
Shovel	
2 Legal papers	

Sound Effects

Sneeze

Snoring

Knees cracking

Branch being stepped on

Crash

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“Toyland, Toyland!
Little girl and boy land.
While you dwell within it,
You are ever happy then.
Childhood's joy land,
mystic, merry Toyland!
Once you pass its borders,
you can never return again.”

Act I

Scene 1

(AT RISE: *Blatherskite Manor. A garden party. In the foreground are Barnaby and his henchmen, Oliver and Stanley. Enjoying the party in the background are Tom, Jack, Jill, Red Riding Hood, Sallie Waters, Miss Muffet, Curly Locks, Boy Blue, Peter, Tommy Tucker, Simple Simon, and Bobby Shaftoe.*)

BARNABY: Enjoy yourselves, my friends! Enjoy yourselves!
I am delighted to see you all here.

MISS MUFFET: (*Sitting on her tuffet.*) Thank you for having us, sir!

BARNABY: You're quite welcome, my dear Muffet. (*To Red Riding Hood.*) My dear little Red Riding Hood! Are you enjoying yourself?

RED RIDING HOOD: I am, Mr. Barnaby. Thoroughly. Thank you for inviting me.

TOM: (*To Barnaby.*) We all are, sir. The food and drinks are wonderful.

BARNABY: I don't see your sister Mary here, Tom. Was she planning to come?

TOM: I don't believe so, Mr. Barnaby. She said she had a headache.

BARNABY: (*Aside.*) Once again, she slights me!

JILL: (*To Jack, stage whisper.*) Actually, she told me, "Old Barnaby was a headache!"

JACK: Careful, Jill, the old shyster will hear you.

JILL: I don't care if he hears me, Jack, after what he did to poor Old Mother Hubbard!

JACK: If you feel that way, why did you come?

JILL: To eat him out of house and home.

OLIVER: (*Secretive.*) Mr. Barnaby, sir? Boss? Are you really our host?

BARNABY: Why, of course I am, Oliver.

STANLEY: You, sir?

OLIVER: *(To Barnaby.)* But you're a lawyer! Since when do you do nice things for people?

BARNABY: I have decided to rehabilitate my public image.

OLIVER: Why?

BARNABY: Because I wish to marry Contrary Mary, and at present, she'll have nothing to do with me. Indeed, nobody in town will, except misers and bankers.

STANLEY: Maybe you shouldn't have foreclosed poor Old Mother Hubbard's mortgage and booted her and her innumerable children into the street.

OLIVER: *(To Barnaby.)* That was hardly calculated to enhance your image. Not at all.

BARNABY: How well I know. But fine food and choice beverages will soon rectify all that. Bribery never fails.

STANLEY: But this party must be costing you a fortune.

BARNABY: Oh, not all that much, my friend. Not all that much.

OLIVER: Whatever do you mean?

BARNABY: Let's just say that one of my neighbors is contributing a great deal...even if she doesn't yet know it.

(Bo Peep enters.)

BO PEEP: *(Frantic.)* Listen, everybody. I need your help. I desperately need your help.

(Song: "Never Mind, Bo Peep.")

TOM: *(Sings.)* What is the matter, little Bo Peep?

BO PEEP: *(Sings.)* I have been careless and lost my sheep.

(Jack and Jill approach.)

TOM: *(Sings.)*

Say, have you seen them Jack and Jill,
During their journey up the hill?

(Red Riding Hood approaches.)

JACK/JILL: *(Sing.)*

They're not on the hilltop, but in the wood.
They may have met with Red Riding Hood.

TOWNSPEOPLE: *(Sing.)*

Don't cry, Bo Peep, don't cry,
To find your sheep we'll try
We'll seek them far,
We'll seek them wide
We'll seek them low and high!

Don't cry, Bo Peep, don't cry,
To find your sheep we'll try
We'll seek them far,
We'll seek them wide
We'll seek them low and high!

(Sallie Waters and Miss Muffet approach.)

BO PEEP: *(Sings.)*

O Sallie Waters and Miss Muffet, too,
Have my stray lambkins been seen by you?

(Curly Locks and Boy Blue approach.)

SALLIE: *(Sings.)*

Better ask Curly Locks fresh from the fair
She or Boy Blue may have seen them there.

(Peter, Tommy Tucker, Simple Simon, and Bobby Shaftoe approach.)

BOY BLUE: *(Sings.)*

Where they are hiding, Tom Tucker may know;
Simon or Peter or Bobby Shaftoe!

TOWNSPEOPLE: (*Sing.*)

Never mind, Bo Peep,
We will find your sheep
No matter where they be!
So be gay, Bo Peep
Though astray your sheep
Soon home again you'll see!

BO PEEP: Ah!

TOWNSPEOPLE: (*Sing.*)

Give a smile, Bo Peep
For a while your sheep
May cruise in pastures new
Never mind, Bo Peep
We will find your sheep
And bring them home to you!

Baa! Baa! Baa!

It was the black sheep that led them away.

Baa! Baa! Baa!

For this the rascal shall certainly pay

Baa! Baa! Baa!

Led them away by the tales that he told

Baa! Baa! Baa!

Far from their meadow and far from their home.

Baa! Baa!

Never mind, Bo Peep,
We will find your sheep
No matter where they be!
So be gay, Bo Peep
Though astray your sheep
Soon home again you'll see!

BO PEEP: Ah!

TOWNSPEOPLE: (*Sing.*)

Give a smile, Bo Peep
For a while your sheep
May cruise in pastures new
Never mind, Bo Peep
We will find your sheep
And bring them home to you!

OLIVER: (*Spoken.*) Poor Bo Peep, losing all her sheep! How very sad.

STANLEY: What a tragedy! Maybe we should help her look for them.

BARNABY: You'd be wasting your time, gentlemen.

STANLEY: Why do you say that, your attorneyship?

OLIVER: (*To Barnaby.*) Do you know where they are?

BARNABY: Let's just say they elected to become lamb chops to help pay for a certain poor lawyer's garden party...

(*Blackout.*)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: *The spacious parlor of Blatherskite Manor, mid-morning, the next day. Barnaby is seated at his desk. Gladys enters.*)

GLADYS: (*To Barnaby.*) Why aren't you at your office? What sort of lawyer are you?

BARNABY: Mother, not now. I'm busy.

GLADYS: Is that any way to talk to your mother? What sort of a son are you?

BARNABY: I said, not now, Mother.

GLADYS: It's eleven o'clock in the morning. It's time for you to be at work.

BARNABY: I *am* working.

GLADYS: Well, it certainly doesn't look like it. What sort of work are you doing?

BARNABY: I'm scheming.

GLADYS: Why don't you scheme at your office?

BARNABY: Because, dear Mother, I'm scheming to get you a daughter-in-law.

GLADYS: Wouldn't it be simpler to just propose?

BARNABY: I don't think so.

GLADYS: Why not?

BARNABY: Because every time I do, she turns me down.

GLADYS: Maybe you're not doing it right. Why does she turn you down?

BARNABY: Because I have every reason to believe the girl can't stand me.

GLADYS: Do you mean she's playing hard-to-get?

BARNABY: No, I mean that I have it on reliable information that she detests me.

GLADYS: Then why in the world would you want to marry her?

BARNABY: I am dazzled by her incomparable beauty.

GLADYS: When I married your dear, departed father, I found him only mildly repulsive.

BARNABY: How ducky for you.

GLADYS: Who is this lucky girl who has caught your eye?

BARNABY: Mary. The delectable Contrary Mary.

GLADYS: But she is your nephew Barney's girl! Besides, she's too young for you!

BARNABY: I could care less about her age. I want the land under her cottage.

GLADYS: Then buy it. Marry somebody worthy to be a wife of the district's pre-eminent lawyer, not some snotty-nosed teenage girl.

BARNABY: She won't sell.

GLADYS: How do you know?

BARNABY: I tried. I even employed a straw man. She wouldn't sell to him, either.

GLADYS: There's land for sale all over town. Buy another piece.

BARNABY: But, my dear mother, there's gold buried on Mary's lot.

GLADYS: How do you know that?

BARNABY: Because I have acquired a treasure map. (*Pulls out a map.*) That's how.

GLADYS: Why would anybody bury gold at Mary's place?

BARNABY: Because 600 years ago, the monks buried it there to keep it from falling into the hands of marauding raiders.

GLADYS: Why there?

BARNABY: Because Mary's house sits on the site of an ancient monastery...their monastery.

GLADYS: But what exactly are they supposed to have buried?

BARNABY: A priceless golden Christmas crèche. My map shows the exact spot.

GLADYS: And where exactly is that?

BARNABY: That is a trade secret, dear Mother.

GLADYS: In that case, don't let me disturb you, but...

(Song: "If You Really Want To Win The Girl.")

GLADYS: (*Sings.*)

If you really want to win the girl, I offer this advice.
There's a method that is tried and true, and comes without a
price.

You begin by giving chocolates, and the fairest flow'rs that
grow.

Next, choose a five-star restaurant, then take her to a show.
So, do just as your mater says! Remember that your
mother's always right!

It's a simple thing to do.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) What you're saying is not true.

GLADYS: (*Sings.*) You can win your true love's heart; just do
what you're told.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*)

I don't give a hoot for love; I just want her gold!

Oh, the methods you prescribe today, dear lady, are passé.

I am proud to say your lawyer son has found a foolproof
way.

If the box of choc'lates doesn't work, there's a railroad track
nearby.

I'll tie her to that railroad track! She'll marry me, or die!

GLADYS: (*Sings.*) Oh, never argue, child of mine! Remember
that your mother's always right!

It's a simple thing to do.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) What you're saying is not true.

GLADYS: (*Sings.*) You can win your true love's heart; just do
what you're told.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) I don't give a hoot for love; I just want
her gold!

GLADYS: (*Sings.*)

If you tie her to the railroad track, she might not understand.

There's a simpler way that's tried and true. Try asking for her hand.
So why don't you say there's none but her; you'll be true to her for life.
And say that you can't live without her as your peerless wife.
So, pay attention, precious child! Remember that your mother's always right!

It's a simple thing to do.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) What you're saying is not true.

GLADYS: (*Sings.*) You can win your true love's heart; just do what you're told.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*)

I don't give a hoot for love; I just want her gold!

But I do not think you understand; your methods just won't work!

When on bended knee I pledged my love, she said I was a jerk!

So it seems, if she's to be my wife, I must scheme and wrack my brain.

And presently, I'm torn between the sawmill and the train!

GLADYS: (*Sings.*) Oh, never question Mama's plans! Remember that your mother's always right!

It's a simple thing to do.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) What you're saying, is not true.

GLADYS: (*Sings.*) You can win your true love's heart; just do what you're told.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) I don't give a hoot for love; I just want her gold!

GLADYS: (*Sings.*) He cares not a hoot for love; all he wants is gold!

(*Blackout.*)

Scene 3

(AT RISE: Parlor of Blatherskite Manor, early afternoon. Barnaby is seated at a his desk, pouring over account books. Barney enters and Jane follows.)

BARNEY: You sent for us, Uncle Barnaby?

BARNABY: Indeed, I did, dear children.

JANE: I hope it's nothing important. Is something wrong?

BARNABY: I would not have sent for you if it wasn't. As your guardian, I have an obligation to annually make my accounting to you.

JANE: You're so good to us, Uncle.

BARNABY: Today is the day. I thought I should run through it with you before presenting it for the court's approval.

JANE: Is the news good or bad?

BARNABY: Good, my dear. In fact, very good. Do you recall that you father left each of you \$250,000 in his will?

BARNEY: Yes...?

BARNABY: And that last year you each received a return of 20 percent on the principal?

JANE: Dear Uncle, please keep it simple.

BARNABY: Indeed, I shall. This year the return was 25 percent.

JANE: So what exactly does that mean?

BARNABY: It means, my dear, that your \$250,000 legacies are now worth \$375,000 each.

BARNEY: (*Suspiciously.*) How much, Uncle, are you taking as your guardian's fee?

BARNABY: I have increased each of your estates by \$75,000 this year. Would a one percent fee, \$750, on each estate seem reasonable to each of you?

JANE: Dear Uncle, it is more—or maybe I should say less—than reasonable.

BARNEY: Thank you, Uncle, and, of course, we approve.

JANE: You work so hard for us, Uncle Barnaby.

BARNABY: If you want to enjoy your fortunes, have fun but be careful. Remember, I am your successor beneficiary.

JANE: (*Joking, to Barney.*) Maybe that's why he invests our money so well!

(*All laugh.*)

BARNABY: (*Remembers.*) Oh! Would you both stop back about seven this evening? I'm planning a little celebration. If things work out as I planned, I would like to share a bottle of champagne with the two of you.

BARNEY: Does this mean that we are now considered adults?

BARNABY: Let's just say that I think that both of you should be introduced to the pleasures of sparkling wine before I trundle you off to college this fall.

BARNEY: Three cheers for Uncle Barnaby!

BARNEY/JANE: Rah! Rah! Rah!

(*Song: "If We Had No Uncle Barnaby."*)

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) If we had no Uncle Barnaby, whatever would we do?

JANE: (*Sings.*) We're two orphans cast adrift by fate, and left to muddle through.

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) Our dear guardian provides a roof, ample meals and clothing, too.

JANE: (*Sings.*) Without our saintly guardian, whatever would we do?

JANE/BARNEY/BARNABY: (*Sing.*) [We'd] [You'd] probably fall prey to crooks, who'd try to take advantage of two waifs.

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) He invests our funds for us.

JANE: (*Sings.*) Always sparing us the fuss.

JANE/BARNEY: (*Sing.*)

Every day he works for us, checking our cash flow.

God bless Uncle Barnaby! He makes money grow.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*)

If you had no Uncle Barnaby, whatever would you do?
You would, no doubt, fall on evil times and nasty people,
too.

JANE/BARNEY/BARNABY: (*Sing.*) In the home of Uncle
Barnaby, [we] [you] are free from want and fear.

JANE/BARNEY: (*Sing.*) So let us raise a toast tonight, to our
dear uncle, here.

JANE/BARNEY/BARNABY: (*Sing.*) Indeed, let us propose a
toast to the great guy to whom [we] [you] owe the most.

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) He invests our funds for us.

JANE: (*Sings.*) Always sparing us the fuss.

JANE/BARNEY: (*Sing.*)

Every day he works for us, checking our cash flow.
God bless Uncle Barnaby! He makes money grow.

(*Blackout.*)

Scene 4

(AT RISE: Contrary Mary's cottage garden, early evening. Widow Piper is seated, reading a book. Mary is tending her garden. Barnaby enters.)

BARNABY: Good evening, fair Mistress Mary! How does your garden grow?

MARY: Why, Mr. Barnaby, what a delightful surprise. It grows quite well.

BARNABY: Do I see silver bells and cockle shells and daisies in a row?

MARY: Indeed you do, sir. *(Pause.)* But that certainly cannot be the reason for your visit.

BARNABY: Indeed not, dear lady. I came instead to see the fairest flower in the garden.

MARY: Do you mean my sapphire clematis that grows on the arbor alongside my house?

BARNABY: No, dear lady. The flower I refer to is you.

MARY: *(Aside.)* Is he about to advance another detestable proposal?

BARNABY: You, dear Mary, are that fairest flower.

MARY: *(Aside.)* And yet, as I am working with manure, why should I object to him bringing me more? *(To Barnaby.)* Me, sir?

BARNABY: Yes, you, my dear. I have come to make you a proposition.

MARY: *(Aside.)* Oh, goody! *(To Barnaby, feigned outrage.)* I beg your pardon, sir!

BARNABY: You misunderstand me, dear lady. I have come to offer you my hand in marriage.

MARY: *(Joking.)* But, good sir, why would I want your hand?

BARNABY: Not just my hand, love. My entire being.

MARY: (*Aside.*) On further consideration, the better option may be just his hand. (*To Barnaby.*) I am afraid, dear Mr. Barnaby, I must decline.

BARNABY: I beg you to reconsider. I offer you wealth and station.

MARY: (*Toying with him.*) Why would I want to live in a station? I already have a cottage. Moreover, I love another.

(*Widow approaches Mary.*)

WIDOW: Don't be so hasty, my child. Lawyer Barnaby is not unsightly. And he offers you a life of comfort and status.

MARY: I will marry only for love!

WIDOW: I married for love, and look what it got me!

BARNABY: Thirteen children!

WIDOW: Fourteen, sir. (*To Mary.*) Listen to your mother. Marry the man.

MARY: Please, Mother!

(*The Widow takes Mary to the side, away from Barnaby.*)

WIDOW: Mary, don't be a fool. If I were younger, I would marry him myself.

MARY: Don't let your age be an impediment, Mother. I shall not stand in your way.

BARNABY: (*Aside.*) If the Widow were younger, I'd flee the country!

WIDOW: (*To Mary.*) Don't look a gift horse in the mouth, Mary darling! Marry him!

MARY: (*To Widow.*) Darling, all I can see is the other end of the horse. (*Discussion between Mary and the Widow continues as Chorus enters. Song: "Barney O'Flynn." Sings.*)

Mother, he's too old for me,

And quite miserable, I'd be.

Though he's wealthy, I could never marry him.

It's his nephew, that I pray,
Who will marry me some day.
For from Barney's spell my heart can ne'er be free.

For no young girl in the land,
Could his eloquence withstand,
If he'd speak to her the things he speaks to me!

"My heart have you stole, you're the thief of my soul
My senses you have taken, too.
No fair Trojan Helen nor Venus excelling
Could e'er hold a candle to you.
Dear Mary, my darling,
Just one kiss would be no sin,
For I love you, my Mary,
Your slave is poor Barney O'Flynn!"

CHORUS: (*Sings.*)

"My heart have you stole, you're the thief of my soul
My senses you have taken, too.
No fair Trojan Helen nor Venus excelling
Could e'er hold a candle to you.
Dear Mary, my darling,
Just one kiss would be no sin,
For I love you, dear Mary,
Your slave is poor Barney O'Flynn!"

WIDOW: (*Sings.*)

You're a willful, stubborn lass
And quite foolishly, you pass
On your chance to land a man with brains and wealth.

MARY: (*Sings.*)

But I have a better plan
For I love a finer man
And I won't deny my heart despite your plea.

So to Barney, I'll be true
And I'll hear no more from you

For I can't forget the things he's said to me.

"My heart have you stole, you're the thief of my soul
My senses you have taken, too.
No fair Trojan Helen nor Venus excelling
Could e'er hold a candle to you.
Dear Mary, sweet Mary,
Just one kiss would be no sin,
For I love you, my Mary,
Your slave is poor Barney O'Flynn!"

CHORUS: (*Sings.*)

"My heart have you stole, you're the thief of my soul
My senses you have taken too.
No fair Trojan Helen nor Venus excelling
Could e'er hold a candle to you.
Dear Mary, sweet Mary,
Just one kiss would be no sin,
For I love you, dear Mary,
Your slave is poor Barney O'Flynn!"

(*Barnaby approaches Mary.*)

BARNABY: (*To Mary.*) I am impatient for your answer, my love.

MARY: Sir, I regret to say that I must decline your kind offer.

BARNABY: Is your resolve, madam, unalterable?

MARY: Unalterable, not to mention...fixed...immutable.

BARNABY: Then, dear lady, I take my leave. (*Starts to leave.*)

WIDOW: (*Calls.*) Don't go, Mr. Barnaby!

BARNABY: (*Out of their earshot. Aside.*) The proud and haughty beauty will rue the day. And now I have an even better reason to rid myself of my nephew Barney forever. A few knockout drops in the champagne will put my plan into inexorable motion. (*Blackout.*)

Scene 5

(AT RISE: Parlor of Blatherskite Manor. Two rugs have been rolled up and are near the door. Barnaby puts the used champagne glasses into a case to hide them. Knock at the door.)

BARNABY: (Calls.) One moment, please.

(Barnaby closes up the case. He picks up a book and carries it with him to the door. Oliver and Stanley enter.)

OLIVER: We came as soon as we received your message, Mr. Barnaby.

STANLEY: (To Barnaby.) We'd have been here sooner, but we didn't receive your message sooner.

BARNABY: Gentlemen, I'm delighted you could come at all.

STANLEY: We were afraid if we didn't you'd get angry. We didn't want you to tell our parole officer that we did something else wrong and send us back to prison again.

OLIVER: (To Barnaby.) What can we do for you, sir?

BARNABY: As your attorney, I know how hard it can be for two erstwhile incompetent criminals to make an honest living, so I thought I'd offer you an opportunity to earn a few honest dollars.

STANLEY: I never dreamed that lawyers knew anything about making an honest dollar.

OLIVER: Now, Stanley, you should be thankful that Mr. Barnaby even thought about helping us.

STANLEY: Yes, I should. It's a rare thing when a lawyer thinks about helping anybody other than himself.

OLIVER: (To Barnaby.) So, what do you want us to do, sir?

BARNABY: Do you see those rugs?

STANLEY: Rugs? (Looks in the wrong direction.) Which rugs?

(Oliver turns Stanley around to face the right direction.)

OLIVER: Those rugs.

BARNABY: (*To Stanley.*) The two that are rolled up over there.

(*Stanley finally spots the rugs.*)

STANLEY: Do you mean those two?

BARNABY: Yes. I have grown tired of them, and I have sold them to the Queen of the Gypsies. I am offering to pay you boys \$100 each to deliver them.

STANLEY: You're offering us \$100 a piece in *cash*?

BARNABY: Not exactly. I am offering to give each of you a \$100 credit against what you owe me for my legal services in your most recent forgery cases.

OLIVER: A credit?

(*Song: "I Fear That I Don't Understand." Sings.*)

I fear that I don't understand

The payment method that you have planned.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) Trust me, my friends, just go.

STANLEY: (*Sings.*)

But when we're starved and want to eat

Will credits buy us warm food to eat?

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) Just go, don't fret, just go.

OLIVER: (*Sings.*)

We'd never question what you do

We'd give the shirts we wear to you.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) So go, good friends, so go.

OLIVER: (*Sings.*)

But could you not advance some cash?

Our landlord when he's stiffed grows rash.

The rent we owe,

STANLEY: (*Sings.*) He'll not forego!

BARNABY: (*Sings.*)

How soon you boys tend to forget.

The well-deserved *time* you didn't get!

First rate legal service never does come free.

Don't forget your lawyer, lest he forget thee.
That's why grateful felons always opt to pay
Debts they owe their lawyers right away!

STANLEY/OLIVER/BARNABY: (*Sing.*)

How soon [we] [you] boys tend to forget
The years behind bars [we] [you] didn't get.
That's why honest felons cannot wait to pay,
All they owe their lawyers—right away.

STANLEY: (*Sings.*)

Oh, please, do not misunderstand.
The thrill of paying your lawyer's grand!

BARNABY: (*Sings.*) It's so, my friends, it's so!

STANLEY: (*Sings.*)

But please don't see it as conceit.
If we should selfishly want to eat.

BARNABY: (*Sings.*)

Oh, say it isn't so!

But eating's something you can do.
In jail they'll give three meals to you.
But freedom has its price.
For if your lawyer you abuse.
Who'll save you when cops turn the screws?
Don't roll the dice! Just pay the price!

BARNABY: (*Sings.*)

How soon you boys tend to forget.
The well-deserved *time* you didn't get!
First rate legal service, never does come free.
Don't forget your lawyer, lest he forget thee.
That's why grateful felons always opt to pay
Debts they owe their lawyers—right away!

STANLEY/OLIVER/BARNABY: (*Sing.*)

How soon [we] [you] boys tend to forget.
The years behind bars [we] [you] didn't get!
That's why honest felons cannot wait to pay
All they owe their lawyers—*right away!*

BARNABY: Let me spell it out. Presently, you each owe me \$5,000 for my services rendered in connection with your most recent legal difficulties. Is that much clear?

OLIVER/STANLEY: Painfully clear.

BARNABY: After doing this little favor for me, you each will then owe me a mere \$4,900. Of course, the two of you will still owe, in addition, a small amount of accrued interest.

OLIVER: We've been meaning to pay you, Mr. Barnaby.

STANLEY: *(To Barnaby.)* A honest criminal always pays his lawyer. Will you take a check?

BARNABY: *(Knowing it would bounce.)* Ah...no thank you, Stanley.

OLIVER: Couldn't you make it a little more?

BARNABY: I'll tell you what, Oliver, since I like both of you so much, if you deliver the rugs and this envelope containing the invoice *unopened* to the Gypsy Queen and bring me back her receipt, I'll knock an additional \$400 off each of your bills. Is that fair?

OLIVER: Nothing could be fairer!

STANLEY: *(To Barnaby.)* I'd rather have something to eat.

OLIVER: *(To Barnaby.)* By the way, exactly how much interest do we presently owe?

BARNABY: \$500.

(Blackout.)

Scene 6

(AT RISE: At the edge of the Forbidden Forest of No Return. Oliver and Stanley are pulling a cart across the stage. The rugs are hanging out of the back of the cart. All Trees are onstage.)

STANLEY: Say, Ollie, why do you suppose Mr. Barnaby didn't want us to open his letter to the Gypsy Queen?

OLIVER: I haven't the faintest idea.

STANLEY: You don't suppose there's money inside, do you?

OLIVER: Well, if there is, it's none of our business.

STANLEY: But...what if there's lots of money?

OLIVER: Then we'd better be very careful to make sure we don't lose it.

STANLEY: But how do we know how careful to be unless we know how much money's inside?

OLIVER: That's a very good question, Stanley.

STANLEY: Don't you think we'd better open it and find out?

OLIVER: But that would smack of dishonesty.

STANLEY: Then I think you should open it.

OLIVER: I guess I'd better.

STANLEY: Open it carefully so we can close it back up without anyone knowing that we opened it.

OLIVER: That's another very good idea. *(Opens the letter.)*
There's a letter and a one-thousand-dollar bill.

STANLEY: Ollie, if old Barnaby is selling the rugs to the Gypsy Queen, why is he sending her money?

OLIVER: I haven't the faintest idea.

STANLEY: Well, Ollie, why don't you read the letter?

OLIVER: *(Reads.)* "Your Majesty, you will find the two articles we recently spoke of wrapped inside the rugs. Enclosed please find one thousand dollars, the sum we agreed upon, to cover 'disposal' and burial expenses."

(Stanley peeks inside one of the rugs. A loud sneeze is heard.)

STANLEY: Do you know what, Ollie?

OLIVER: No, I don't know what.

STANLEY: I think there's a living person inside each of these two rugs.

OLIVER: Why ever would you think that?

STANLEY: Because I just heard this rug... (*Indicating.*) ...sneeze and... (*Indicating other rug.*) ...that one snore.

OLIVER: Are you sure you're not imagining things?

(*A loud snore is heard.*)

STANLEY: Ollie, I think something's wrong.

OLIVER: What could possibly be wrong? Mr. Barnaby is as honest a lawyer as has ever lived.

STANLEY: Then why did he tell us that we were only delivering rugs?

OLIVER: Isn't it obvious to you? (*Not realizing what he is saying.*) He didn't want us to know that we were delivering two people that he was paying the Gypsy Queen a thousand dollars to bury. (*Realizes.*) Oh!

STANLEY: But why would he pay her a thousand dollars to bury living bodies?

OLIVER: (*Realizes.*) He's not paying her to just bury *living* bodies. He wants her to *dispose* of them first.

STANLEY: But isn't it murder to dispose of living bodies?

OLIVER: (*Realizes.*) Oh!

STANLEY: (*Half crying like a child.*) Ollie, I'm just an honest, petty forger. I don't want to get mixed up in a murder.

OLIVER: (*Realizes.*) Oh!

STANLEY: (*Running in circles.*) What are we going to do, Ollie? Mr. Barnaby won't pay us the rest of our money unless we give him the Queen's receipt.

OLIVER: Why don't you just be quiet and give me a minute to think?

STANLEY: Ollie, I've got an idea!

OLIVER: Well, what is it?

STANLEY: First, I think we should keep the thousand dollars.

OLIVER: I'm proud of you, Stanley. That's a very good idea!

STANLEY: Next, we get the bodies out of the rugs and hide them deep in the Forbidden Forest of No Return.

OLIVER: But if we do that, how will *we* return?

STANLEY: My sweater is unraveling...we can use it like a ball of string. We'll tie the loose end to that tree... (*Indicating tree.*) ...and go in as far as we can, and when it is all unraveled, we'll leave the bodies there, and follow the string back out.

OLIVER: That's another very good idea, Stanley. But we don't have a receipt. What will we tell Mr. Barnaby?

STANLEY: We won't have to tell him anything. I'll forge a receipt that purports to be from the Gypsy Queen, advising him that the rugs arrived safely, and that the "bugs" in the rugs have been permanently disposed of, and thanking him for all his business.

OLIVER: What if he finds out what we've done? He'll tell our parole officer we stole his thousand dollars.

STANLEY: I think we should keep the note you just read. If he turns *us* in, we can turn *him* in.

OLIVER: Turn him in?

STANLEY: He's asking the Gypsy Queen to commit two murders.

OLIVER: You know, Stanley, that's really a very good plan.

STANLEY: I'll tie this string to that tree. You carry the rugs into the forest. We'll make two trips.

(Stanley heads for the tree. Oliver goes to the rugs. As Oliver carries the first rug into the forest, the Trees of the forest sing. As Stanley accompanies Oliver, the string from the sweater unravels. Song: "Forest Trees, Who Are These?")

CREEPING WILLOW: (*Sings.*) What is happening here?

LIVE OAK: (*Sings.*) It's a mystery!

JACK PINE: (*Sings.*) Something's wrong, I fear.

BRASH ASH: (*Sings.*) That's not hard to see!

BIG MOUTH MAPLE: (*Sings.*) What's he dumping there?

ENGLISH WALNUT: (*Sings.*) What is in those things?

(*Referring to rugs.*)

TREE 1: (*Sings.*) That's a body there!

TREE 2: (*Sings.*) Is it death he brings?

ALL TREES: (*Sing.*)

Forest Trees, who are these?

Let us keep a silent watch. Are they sleeping?

Till we know, what is so

We'll just serve as sentinels on watch keeping.

(*Oliver dumps the first rug and returns to fetch the second rug.
Blackout.*)

Scene 7

(AT RISE: Contrary Mary's cottage garden. Barnaby enters, followed by Ollie and Stanley, who are now dressed as sailors.)

BARNABY: Mary, dear.

MARY: Yes?

BARNABY: I have tragic news.

MARY: Why would I wish to hear tragic news?

BARNABY: These two sailors... (*Indicating Oliver and Stanley.*) ...have just reported to me that my niece and nephew have perished...that they drowned in Lake Bland.

MARY: Barney? My Barney? (*Pause.*) And Jane, too?

BARNABY: Alas, dear lady, yes. And Jane, too. I have been left a veritable orphan.

MARY: But what of your mother?

BARNABY: I forgot to count her. An orphan...with a mother!

MARY: But what were they doing on the lake?

BARNABY: They had planned to visit [St. Olaf College]...to determine if they wished to enroll. [*Or insert the name of another college or university.*]

MARY: (*Overwhelmed.*) Barney drowned. I can't believe it.

OLIVER: It is true, dear lady.

STANLEY: I saw him sink like a stone.

OLIVER: Rather more like a rock.

STANLEY: (*Insistent.*) Stone, I said.

OLIVER: Rock!

BARNABY: In any event, it was a great tragedy. Of course, there is one small silver lining.

MARY: Whatever could that be?

BARNABY: There is now no impediment to our marriage.

MARY: Would you press your suit at a time like this?

STANLEY: (*Serious.*) No, he hasn't pressed his suit. (*Indicating.*) It's still wrinkled.

BARNABY: I am mad about you, Mary, dear. I love you
puissantly. I beg you once more on bended knee... *(As he
kneels down, we hear a loud crack from his knee.)* ...dearest, be
mine!

OLIVER: *(To Stanley.)* What does "puissantly" mean?

STANLEY: I think it means he likes the way she smells.

MARY: My dear Mr. Barnaby, I mean no offense, but I would
rather die ere I marry you.

BARNABY: Does that mean I am again rejected?

MARY: Not merely rejected. Scorned. Repudiated.
Reprobated! Kindly leave!

(Barnaby starts to exit with Oliver and Stanley in tow.)

BARNABY: You will rue this day, my proud and haughty
beauty!

*(Barnaby, Oliver, and Stanley exit. Tom enters from Mary's
cottage.)*

TOM: What, dear sister, was that all about?

MARY: Barney, my love, is dead, and the horrible old
Barnaby renews his suit. When I spurn his offer, he
threatens that "I shall rue the day."

TOM: Do you think him capable of acting upon his threat?

MARY: Yes, Tom, I do. He claims Jane and Barney were lost
at sea.

TOM: Barney and Jane? My sweet Jane? *(Pause.)* Do you
believe him?

MARY: Barney would not have left me without a parting kiss.
If he is dead, I think it is more likely that old Barnaby
murdered both of them to lay hands on their fortunes.

TOM: How do you plan to defend yourself?

MARY: Defense is hopeless. There is only flight.

TOM: But where will you go? To the west and south there is Lake Bland. To the north, the ice-covered mountains. And to the east lies the Forbidden Forest of No Return.

MARY: I have no choice. And I cannot return in any event. I must flee into the forest.

TOM: Then you intend to spend the rest of your life hiding in the forest?

MARY: No, I will try to find my way through. There must be civilization on the other side. I will make a new home there.

TOM: As it appears that Jane has perished, too, there is nothing for me here. I will go with you to protect you.

MARY: Let us gather a few things and go before Barnaby even realizes we are gone.

TOM: Yes. (*Song: "Let Us Steal Away." Sings.*)

Let us steal away from our problems today

To a land where we'll be free

We'll leave troubles behind and find peace of mind

Far way from Barnaby.

Through the Forbidden Forest we'll travel—

To a place where our cares will unravel

A place where two broken hearts

Can try to make fresh starts

Forgetting tragedy.

Jane, dear Jane, your loss has ended the life that we knew.

Jane, my Jane, heaven, my love, it seems needed you, too.

And though I make a new life where I happen to light

Your dear love will come back to my heart every night.

MARY: (*Sings.*)

Even though I shall flee to avoid Barnaby

Still my heart will linger here

When I'm feeble and old, and the winter's turn cold

I'll still love my Barney, dear.

Though the lives that we planned are now lost dreams,

My life won't be as bad as it now seems

I'll always remember the kisses he gave me,

And somehow my heart will heal.

Barney, dear, your death has ended the life that we knew.
Barney, dear, heaven, my love, it seems needed you, too.
And though I make a new life where I happen to light,
Your dear love will come back to my heart every night.

(Blackout. Intermission.)

Act II

Scene I

(AT RISE: The Forbidden Forest of No Return. Trees are onstage. Tom and Mary are making their way through the forest. Tom and Mary carry only a small suitcase or sack for their belongings.)

MARY: I am getting tired.

TOM: It seems as if we've been walking forever.

MARY: Maybe we should rest for the night.

TOM: How do you know it's night? It's been dark since we entered the forest.

MARY: My feet are telling me. *(Points.)* Look, there is a clearing over there.

(Mary and Tom proceed to the clearing. Exhausted, they drop their bags and rest.)

TOM: Did you remember to leave a note for Mother telling her where we're going?

MARY: Yes, I told her I was in great danger and that I was going to hide in the forest and that you were coming along to protect me.

TOM: Did you tell her you were trying to escape from old Barnaby?

MARY: No. I just told her that if she ever needed to find us to follow the string tied to the arbor in my garden across the road and into the forest.

TOM: I hope the ball of string holds out. I'm thirsty. Did you think to bring any water?

MARY: No. How about you?

TOM: Not a drop.

(Song: "We Won't Be Happy While We're Hungry.." Sings.)

When we hurriedly devised our plan, we did not think it

through.

We forgot to pack a goodie sack like seasoned travelers do.
Now to be precise we pay the price; our hunger's roaming
free.

So let us find a chocolate chip or peanut butter tree.

For we won't be happy while we're hungry.

I must admit that ice cream would be nice

I'd love a pizza slice, or even flavored ice

For we're starving and need energy.

And we won't be happy while we're hungry.

MARY: (*Sings.*)

Now we're miserable and dying for a drink to quench our
thirst.

A cold frosted glass of lemonade is just what I need first.

But I'd not refuse a tall black cow or spurn a root beer float!

I'd even settle for some of prune juice—though its risks I
note.

But I won't be happy while I'm thirsty

In fact, if I'm to step back from the brink,

A cold cola, I think, would be the perfect drink

But I'd even settle for some water.

But I won't be happy while I'm thirsty.

TREES: (*Sing softly.*)

As forest trees, there's little we can do

We have no food for you, and things to drink are few.

Would you settle for some acorn stew?

TOM: Hush, Jane! Shhh! I thought I heard someone singing.

MARY: Is this clearing growing smaller, or is it just my
imagination?

TOM: Probably your imagination. Trees can't move.

(*Creeping Willow Tree moves.*)

MARY: (*Points to Creeping Willow.*) What about that one?

TOM: I think that one just moved. What kind of tree could it
be?

MARY: I think it's a weeping willow.

TOM: I didn't know weeping willows could move.

CREEPING WILLOW: That's because I am not a *weeping* willow. I'm a *creeping* willow!

MARY: And I didn't know trees could talk!

(Live Oak, Jack Pine, Brash Ash, Big Mouth Maple, and English Walnut move closer.)

LIVE OAK: That is probably because you have never met a *Live Oak* before.

CREEPING WILLOW: *(To Tom and Mary.)* What are you two doing here?

JACK PINE: *(To Creeping Willow.)* Isn't it obvious? They are trespassers!

LIVE OAK: *(To Tom and Mary.)* Show us your passports.

BRASH ASH: You're wasting your time. They don't have any passports.

TOM: Our what?

BRASH ASH: *(To Live Oak.)* See! I told you so.

BIG MOUTH MAPLE: *(To Tom and Mary.)* Your passports from the Queen of the Forest. The Queen of the Fireflies.

MARY: We don't have any passports.

JACK PINE: *(Smug.)* I told you they were trespassers.

BIG MOUTH MAPLE: It was written all over their faces.

LIVE OAK: What should we do with them?

CREEPING WILLOW: We must take them for trial before the Queen.

TOM: What will become of us?

BRASH ASH: That is up to the Queen.

ENGLISH WALNUT: If she likes you, probably only life imprisonment in the Cave of the Giant Spiders.

TOM: What if she doesn't like us?

LIVE OAK: Then you'll get to meet my cousin, the Gallows Oak.

BIG MOUTH MAPLE: *(To Tom and Mary.)* Will you accompany us voluntarily, or do we have to carry you?

TOM: I'll walk.

MARY: My feet are sore. I'd prefer to be carried.

(One of the Trees scoops Mary up and they all exit. Blackout.)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: Another part of the Forbidden Forest of No Return, sometime later. Trees are onstage. Barney and Jane are sleeping in a small clearing. In a nearby clearing, the Queen of the Forest is ensnared in the web of the Spider Captain. Note: Jane and Barney need to move only slightly to see what is happening in the neighboring clearing. Jane wakes up.)

JANE: (Stage whisper.) Barney, wake up!

(Barney wakes up.)

BARNEY: (Groggy.) It is still night. Why are you waking me up?

JANE: There is something wrong. Where are we?

BARNEY: (Groggy.) We're home in bed.

JANE: No, Barney. We're not. I think we're in the woods!

BARNEY: (Realizes.) What are we doing in the woods?

JANE: I don't know. Do you suppose we are in the Forbidden Forest of No Return?

BARNEY: I haven't the faintest idea. Do you remember how we got here?

JANE: No. (Sound of a branch being crushed underfoot is heard.) Did you hear that?

BARNEY: Hear what?

(Jane thinks she sees a Tree move.)

JANE: Did you see that?

BARNEY: All I see are trees!

(Song: "From Their Deep, Deathlike Sleep.")

JANE: (Sings.) See that willow there!

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) Do you mean that tree?

JANE: (*Sings.*) I just saw it move.

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) Are you joshing me?

JANE: (*Sings.*) See, that great oak there.

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) A majestic tree!

JANE: (*Sings.*) I just heard it sneeze!

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) That could never be.

TREES: (*Sing.*)

From their deep, deathlike sleep

Two young strangers rouse themselves from their slumbers.

As they slept, we have kept faithful vigil through the night
on their deep slumbers.

JANE: (*Sings.*) Did that pine just laugh?

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) Did that maple call?

JANE: (*Sings.*) Did that ash just wink?

(*Crash is heard.*)

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) Did that walnut fall?

JANE: (*Sings.*) Darling, I'm afraid.

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) Fear's a common thing.

JANE: (*Sings.*) No, there's something wrong.

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) Yes, this glade grows small!

TREES: (*Sing.*)

From their deep, deathlike sleep

Two young strangers rouse themselves from their slumbers.

As they slept, trees have kept faithful vigil through the night
on their deep slumbers.

JANE: Are we being silly?

BARNEY: We're just not used to being in the forest. We're
letting our imaginations get the better of us.

JANE: I suspect you're right. I hope you're right!

BARNEY: But how did we get here?

JANE: All I can remember is drinking champagne with Uncle
Barnaby and feeling very tired.

BARNEY: (*Realizes.*) Jane! Do you suppose our dear uncle drugged us?

JANE: It's possible. But why?

BARNEY: To get his hands on our fortunes. If he can prove we're dead, he's the successor beneficiary under our father's will.

JANE: How do we get out of here?

BARNEY: I don't think it has ever been done. That's why they call it the Forbidden Forest of No Return.

(*Spider Captain lets out an evil laugh.*)

JANE: (*Stage whisper.*) What was that?

BARNEY: I have no idea. Let's creep over and look.

(*Jane and Tom quietly sneak over to the other clearing where they see the beautiful Queen of the Forest enmeshed in one of a number of giant spider webs. The Spider Captain is relishing in her capture.*)

SPIDER CAPTAIN: (*To Queen.*) I am delighted that Your Majesty could *drop in* like this, and on such short notice.

QUEEN: Now that I am your prisoner, what do you plan to do with me?

SPIDER CAPTAIN: I could make a meal of you right now, of course.

QUEEN: I am your queen. I forbid it!

SPIDER CAPTAIN: Correction. You *were* my queen. At the present time, I think it would be more accurate to say that I am your king, and that you have been reduced to the rank of "*Lunch.*" Or, perhaps, I should say, "*Lunch, First Class!*"

QUEEN: Release me this instant, or I'll summon my guard.

SPIDER CAPTAIN: I've never been forced to gag a queen, or should I say, ex-queen. Have I your word there will be no outcry?

QUEEN: (*Realizes crying out would be futile.*) You have my word. (*Thinks.*) Release me, and I'll make it worth your while. I'll grant you one half of my kingdom.

SPIDER CAPTAIN: Why would I want half when I presently have it all?

QUEEN: (*Desperate.*) I'll marry you. Then you will be a legitimate king and not a usurper.

SPIDER CAPTAIN: I've always thought that a woman was most beautiful when she was in distress. But as beautiful as you are, my dear, there's a little red spider who has caught my eye, and who I think would look lovely sitting next to me on our thrones.

QUEEN: Then what do you plan to do to me?

SPIDER CAPTAIN: You sentenced me to life imprisonment in the Spider Caves. I certainly could do no less for a woman of your great beauty. Or would you prefer to spend the rest of your days right where you are, my lady? (*Jane sneezes. Startled, the Spider Captain trips and falls into another one of his webs. He struggles to get free but cannot. He spies Jane and Barney. To Jane and Barney.*) My good friends, I have become enmeshed in my own web. Would you be kind enough to help me out?

QUEEN: (*To Jane and Barney.*) I am the Queen of the Forest! Rescue me, and you will be richly rewarded!

SPIDER CAPTAIN: (*To Jane and Barney.*) Do not believe her. If you release her, she will imprison you, just as she did me!

QUEEN: (*To Jane and Barney.*) Leave him where he is! He is a cannibal who will eat you if you give him half the chance!

JANE: (*To Barnaby.*) Who shall we save?

BARNEY: The Queen.

JANE: Get a stick to cut her free. (*Barney finds a nearby branch and uses it as a knife to cut the web and free the Queen. Without a word of thanks, the terrified Queen disappears into the forest. To Barney.*) Let's get out of here!

(Jane and Barney retreat to their former clearing. As they do, the Trees begin to move in on them.)

BIG MOUTH MAPLE: *(To Jane and Barney.)* Trespassers!

BRASH ASH: *(To Trees.)* Seize them!

CREEPING WILLOW: *(To Trees.)* Take them to the Queen!

(Blackout.)

Scene 3

(AT RISE: *The Forbidden Forest of No Return. The throne room of the Queen of the Forest. The Queen is sitting on her throne. First Lieutenant and Second Lieutenant flank the Queen. Forest Creatures surround around the Queen (optional). Trees enter, escorting their prisoners—Mary, Tom, Jane, and Barney.*)

BRASH ASH: *(To Queen.)* We found these vile intruders within your pristine forest.

BIG MOUTH MAPLE: *(To Queen.)* We have charged them with trespass upon your royal preserve. *(Passes a paper up to the Queen.)* Here is the indictment against Jane and Barney, the trespassers.

CREEPING WILLOW: *(To Queen.)* We demand the maximum penalty the law allows!

ENGLISH WALNUT: *(To Queen.)* They are defiantly pleading not guilty.

JACK PINE: *(To Queen.)* When they should be throwing themselves upon the mercy of the court!

LIVE OAK: Show them your justice, O gracious Queen!

QUEEN: *(To Trees.)* Do you all swear that you found the prisoners, Barney and Jane, within my Forbidden Forest?

TREES: By all the gods of the forest, we so swear!

(Queen shows no sign that she recognizes Barney and Jane as having rescued her.)

QUEEN: Prisoners Barney and Jane. You have heard the evidence against you. Eight witnesses say you have been found in my forest. What is your defense?

BARNEY: We do not know how we came to be in your forest, Your Majesty.

JANE: *(To Queen.)* The last we recall is that our uncle gave us champagne to drink to celebrate his anticipated betrothal.

BARNEY: *(To Queen.)* We remember nothing after that.

JANE: *(To Queen.)* Until we woke up and found ourselves in your forest.

BARNEY: *(To Queen.)* We have no recollection of entering the forest.

JANE: *(To Queen.)* And we had no plan or intent to enter your forest.

BARNEY: That, in a nutshell, is our case, Majesty.

QUEEN: And a good case it is! I believe you are telling me the truth, and, accordingly, I find you both not guilty. You are welcome to remain in my forest, or if you wish, I will have my First Lieutenant escort you wherever else you wish to go. *(To Big Mouth Maple.)* Call the next case.

(Big Mouth Maple hands another piece of paper to the Queen.)

BIG MOUTH MAPLE: There, Majesty, is a similar charge against the prisoners Tom and Mary.

QUEEN: What is the evidence against them?

LIVE OAK: They were apprehended two leagues inside the forest and within 300 feet of the ruins of the ancient church.

QUEEN: *(To Trees.)* Is that your sworn testimony?

TREES: By all the forest gods, it is.

QUEEN: Tom and Mary, what say you in your defense?

MARY: I came into the forest to escape a dreadful proposal of marriage to an evil man.

TOM: *(To Queen.)* I came as her protector.

QUEEN: *(To Mary.)* Did you intend to come?

MARY: Yes, Your Majesty.

TOM: *(To Queen.)* Yes.

QUEEN: Then, under our law, you are guilty as charged. It is our sentence and pleasure that you be confined in the Cave of the Giant Spiders for the remainder of your natural lives. May heaven have mercy on your souls!

BARNEY: Wait, great Majesty!

QUEEN: Wait? For what?

JANE: We request the rich reward you promised us when we rescued you from the web of the Spider Captain.

QUEEN: I have not forgotten. I will grant your request—your one wish.

BARNEY: We request that Tom and Mary—

MARY: And any of our other friends—

BARNEY: Who happen into this forest within the next fortnight be granted full pardon.

MARY: And safe passage.

QUEEN: A truly grateful Queen grants your modest request. My faithful Lieutenant will convey all of you as you may wish.

MARY: What land lies east of this forest?

LIVE OAK: I thought everybody knew that!

QUEEN: Why, Toyland, of course!

MARY/BARNEY/JANE/TOM: We wish to go there, great Queen.

QUEEN: Then to Toyland you shall go. Lieutenant...

FIRST LIEUTENANT: *(To Mary, Tom, Barney, and Jane.)* This way, please.

(Trees exit as First Lieutenant leads Mary, Barney, Jane, and Tom off to Toyland. Song: "If You Will Please Follow Me.")

FIRST LIEUTENANT: *(Sings.)*

If you will please follow me,

I'll lead you all safely through our land.

The forest is dangerous, but I know its secrets.

I promise I'll get you to Toyland.

Toyland's a marvelous place—

A place where each day is like Christmas.

You'll each day build toys for good girls and good boys

And your lives will be free of the world's stress.

MARY: *(Sings.)* To Toyland, to Toyland we can't wait to go.

TOM: *(Sings.)* Our problems and worries we leave here with you!

JANE: (*Sings.*) Tomorrow will banish all the sad times we knew.

BARNEY: (*Sings.*) Tomorrow in Toyland, our lives start anew.

CHORUS: (*Sings.*)

To Toyland, our young friends cannot wait to go.

Their problems and troubles, they bid fond adieu!

Tomorrow they'll forget all the sad times they knew.

Yes, tomorrow in Toyland, their lives start anew.

(First Lieutenant, Barney, Jane, Tom, and Mary exit. A change of light indicates a brief passage of time. Trees enter, escorting new prisoners—Widow, Barnaby, Gladys, Oliver, and Stanley.)

ENGLISH WALNUT: Your Majesty, here are some more wretched intruders.

WIDOW: (*To Queen, blurts out.*) I am a poor widow searching for my children, Tom and Mary.

QUEEN: (*Indicating the other Prisoners.*) And who are these?

WIDOW: They are dear friends who are helping me in my search.

GLADYS: (*To Queen, proudly.*) This is my son, Barnaby, the lawyer. Isn't he handsome!

BARNABY: (*To Queen.*) Can you tell us where they went?

QUEEN: I can do better than that. I will have my Second Lieutenant show you the way—the way to Toyland.

(Blackout.)

[END OF FREEVIEW]