

HANSEL AND GRETEL

A Musical for Children of All Ages

Book, Music & Lyrics by David Warrack

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Time: Long ago

Place: In the forest

Cast: Storyteller (doubles as Peter)
Hansel
Gretel, Hansel's Sister
Peter, Hansel and Gretel's Father
Marie, Hansel and Gretel's Stepmother (doubles as Helga)
Helga, the Wicked Witch of the Woods

Songs:

1. Hansel and Gretel
2. Poor
3. Get Those Kids Outta My Hair
4. No One Snores Like Stepmother Snores
5. Deeper and Deeper
6. Some People Don't Know (When They're Not Wanted)
- 6a. Deeper and Deeper (reprise)
7. I Do the Right Thing at the Wrong Time
- 7a. Panic (reprise)
8. Everyone Should Have Someone Like You
9. The Highway Home
10. Come On In, You're Welcome
11. Things Aren't Always What They Seem
12. There's Been a Change Overnight
13. Even Witches Get Old
14. Once We're Home
15. Testing Out the Oven
- 15a. There's Been a Change Overnight (reprise)

Hansel and Gretel - 2

ACT I

STORYTELLER (with his guitar)

Song #1: HANSEL AND GRETEL

THIS IS THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL,
A STORY THAT TEACHES A LESSON I BET'LL
BE FOLLOWED BY ALL OF THE CHILDREN WHO HEAR IT.
IF YOU SEE A GINGERBREAD RANCH, DON'T GO NEAR IT.
JUST RUN AND HIDE. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WAITING INSIDE.
THIS IS A TALE OF A SISTER AND BROTHER
WHO OVERCAME EVIL BY LOVING EACH OTHER.
WHATEVER THEY FACED, WELL THEY FACED IT TOGETHER
WITHOUT ASKING WHY AND WITHOUT ASKING WHETHER THEY SHOULD.
THEY KNEW THE POWERFUL THINGS LOVE CAN DO.

THERE ARE WITCHES WAITING OUT THERE
WHO ARE WICKED AS CAN BE.
BUT EVEN WITCHES ARE AWARE
THEIR POTIONS AND SPELLS GIVE THEM NO GUARANTEE
TO CATCH PEOPLE LIKE HANSEL AND GRETEL AND YOU AND ME.

Hansel and Gretel lived in a small house beside a large forest where went to play every day to escape what had become an unhappy home. After their Mother died, their Father became very lonely and morose, and finally married a woman who looked on them as baggage she wanted out of the house, and the sooner the better. The Father, torn between his love for his children and his need to satisfy his wife, became even more unhappy than he was before. He began to miss days working as a woodcutter, and his poor family became poor as poor can be. And this, as you will see, made his children become prisoners of Helga, the Wicked Witch of the Woods.

(Company sing with the Storyteller, but are unseen)

THERE ARE WITCHES WAITING OUT THERE
WHO ARE WICKED AS CAN BE.
BUT EVEN WITCHES ARE AWARE
THEIR POTIONS AND SPELLS GIVE THEM NO GUARANTEE
TO CATCH PEOPLE LIKE HANSEL AND GRETEL AND YOU AND ME.
AND THAT'S GOOD, CUZ ONCE WITCHES CATCH YOU,
WITCHES WON'T SET YOU FREE.

And now to our story, to our cottage, to our poor, poor family.

HANSEL AND GRETEL – 3

The Storyteller sets his guitar aside, and with one or two instant costume pieces, becomes Hansel and Gretel's Father, joined by Hansel, Gretel, and Marie, their Stepmother.

Song #2: POOR

GRETEL, HANSEL, MARIE, PETER

WE'RE AS POOR AS A POOR FAM'LY CAN BE,
AND IT ISN'T ANY FUN JUST SCRAPING BY,
NOTHING WE CAN SELL, SO NOTHING WE CAN BY.

MARIE

CUPBOARD'S BARE.

HANSEL

NOTHING THERE.

GRETEL

CLOTHES ARE FRAYED.

PETER

RENT'S UNPAID.

ALL

PROSPECTS ARE SLIM AND SO ARE WE.
NOTHING THAT'S FATTENING COMES FOR FREE.

WE'RE AS POOR AS A POOR FAM'LY CAN BE,
AND WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF WAYS THAT WE CAN COPE.
RUNNING OUT OF DAYS WITH ANY KIND OF HOPE.

GRETEL

NIGHTS ARE COLD.

PETER

BLANKETS OLD.

MARIE

WALLS ARE THIN.

HANSEL AND GRETEL – 4

HANSEL

WIND GETS IN.

ALL

WORK ALL OUR DAYS WITH NO REWARD.
EV'RYTHING'S SOMETHING WE CAN'T AFFORD.

HANSEL

AND YET I'VE GOT A FEELING DEEP INSIDE OF ME
THIS IS NOT THE WAY THAT IT IS ALWAYS GONNA BE.
THERE'S SOMETHING TELLING ME TO KEEP MY EYES WIDE OPEN FOR THE STAR
THAT'S GONNA LEAD US ALL AWAY FROM WHERE WE ARE
RIGHT NOW.
ANY NIGHT MIGHT BE THE NIGHT WE FIND IT,
UNLESS WE'RE BLIND IT WILL BE OURS TO FOLLOW TO THE POT OF GOLD,
AND I'M GOING TO FIND IT BEFORE I'M TOO OLD.

GRETEL

YOU'RE CONFUSING A RAINBOW WITH A STAR.
WE'LL ALWAYS BE THE WAY WE ARE.

ALL

WE'RE AS POOR AS A POOR FAM'LY CAN BE.
WE GOT PATCHES ON OUR PANTS, HOLES IN OUR SHOES,
PATCHES ON OUR SHIRTS, NO EXTRA ONES TO CHOOSE.

MARIE

GOT NO RUGS.

HANSEL

BEDS WITH BUGS.

GRETEL

GOT NO PHONE.

PETER

CHAIRS ON LOAN.

HANSEL AND GRETEL – 5

ALL

RAGS FOR OUR WINDOWS, RATS FOR PETS.
THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT EVER GETS.

HANSEL

AND YET I'VE GOT A FEELING I CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE -
JUST A LITTLE CHANGE IN LUCK IS ALL THAT IT WILL TAKE.
THERE'S SOMETHING TELLING ME TO KEEP MY EYES WIDE OPEN FOR THE FIELD
THAT'S FLOWING WITH THE FLOWERS THAT ARE GOING TO YIELD THE CLUE
TO THE LUCK WE'RE SEEKING, AND WE'LL FIND IT, UNLESS WE'RE BLIND IT
WILL BE OURS BECAUSE THAT SPECIAL FOUR-LEAF ROSE
OUT OF ALL THAT FIELD, WAS THE ONE WE CHOSE!

GRETEL

HANSEL, FOUR-LEAF CLOVER IS WHAT YOU NEED FOR LUCK.
IT CAN'T BE FOUND, AND SO WE'RE STUCK.

ALL

WE'RE AS POOR AS A POOR FAM'LY CAN BE,
AND THAT'S THE WAY THAT WE WILL STAY, BEST TO ADMIT,
MIGHT AS WELL ACCEPT IT, THINGS WON'T CHANGE A BIT.
YES, IT'S UNFAIR. YES, IT'S A CRIME,
BUT LOOKING FOR MIRACLES IS A WASTE OF TIME,
WHEN YOU'RE POOR.

MARIE

Like a drill sergeant.

Hansel. What are you doing? Go get some wood for the stove. And you, Gretel – have you got all those clothes with patches up on the line yet? Or do I have to do your jobs as well as mine? Come on, both of you – move it!!!

Hansel and Gretel exit.

PETER

Do you really have to treat them that way? They're good kids. They never complain.

HANSEL AND GRETEL – 6

MARIE

If they don't complain, it's because they're too stupid to realize how unhappy they should be!

PETER

Marie. Please don't be that way.

MARIE

You want to know what's wrong? You want to know why I'm this way? I'll tell you. I'm sick and tired of Hansel and Gretel. You want to know what you can do about it? Well, I'll tell you that too!

Song #3: GET THOSE KIDS OUT OF MY HAIR

GET THOSE KIDS OUTTA MY HAIR.
TAKE 'EM IN THE WOODS AND LEAVE 'EM THERE!
GET 'EM OUT ON THEIR OWN.
WE CAN'T AFFORD KIDS IF WE CAN'T AFFORD A PHONE.
TIME FOR THEM TO GROW UP AND FACE THE WORLD OUTSIDE.
THEY SHOULDN'T BE LIVING OFF OF US. HAVEN'T THEY ANY PRIDE?

GET THOSE KIDS OUTTA THIS PLACE.
GIVE 'EM A BAG AND AN OLD SUITCASE.
GET THOSE KIDS UP AND IN FLIGHT.
THEY'RE TOO MUCH NOISE AND AN AWFUL SIGHT.
TIME FOR THEM TO SUCK IT UP AND FLY OUT OF THE NEST.
WE CAN'T AFFORD THOSE TWO MOUTHS ANYWHERE,
SO GET 'EM OUTTA WHAT'S LEFT OF MY HAIR
AND GIVE ME A LITTLE REST!

PETER

DARLING, THEY'RE JUST CHILDREN! THEY NEVER WOULD SURVIVE.

MARIE

NEITHER WILL WE! CAN'T YOU SEE?
WE'LL NONE OF US BE ALIVE IF THEY REMAIN.

PETER

HOW COULD I EVER ENDURE THAT KIND OF PAIN?

HANSEL AND GRETEL – 7

THEY'RE MY CHILDREN. THEY'RE MY LIFE.

MARIE

WELL, MY DARLING, I'M YOUR WIFE! AND I SAY,
GET THOSE KIDS OUTTA MY WAY.
THEY HAVE TO GO. THEY CANNOT STAY.
STICK INTO THEIR WORN-OUT BELTS
A ONE-WAY TICKET TO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
TIME FOR THEM TO LEARN SOME RESPONSIBILITY.
THEY SHOULDN'T BE ALONG JUST FOR THE RIDE. NONE OF IT COMES FOR FREE.

GET THOSE KIDS OUTTA MY NOSE.
THIS IS THE MOVE THAT I PROPOSE.
LET THEM CRY. LET THEM FUSS.
WHAT HAVE THEY EVER DONE FOR US?
ONE OF THEM'S A DREAMER. THE OTHER IS A PEST.
WE CAN'T AFFORD THOSE MOUTHS ANY WHERE
SO GET 'EM OUTTA WHAT'S LEFT OF MY HAIR
AND GIVE ME A LITTLE REST.

GET THOSE KIDS OUTTA MY HAIR.
TAKE 'EM IN THE WOODS AND LEAVE 'EM THERE!

During the song, the kids have been listening, hidden in the corner.

So, have I made my point?

PETER

Yes.

MARIE

And ...?

PETER

We will take the children into the woods.

MARIE

And leave them there?

HANSEL AND GRETEL - 8

PETER

But ...

MARIE

And leave them there?

PETER

Couldn't we ...?

MARIE

And leave them there?

PETER

In a whisper.

And leave them there.

MARIE

When?

PETER

Tomorrow.

MARIE

Good. It's about time!

She exits. Peter becomes the Storyteller.

STORYTELLER

And so the awful deed was to be done. But Hansel and Gretel had overheard the discussion. And they had other plans!

GRETEL

What are we going to do? We'll never survive out there by ourselves.

HANSEL

We won't have to. Tonight, when everyone's asleep, I'll gather some pebbles to mark our way as we go into the forest. Then all we have to do is follow them home.

GRETEL

Just don't let Stepmother catch you!

HANSEL

Don't worry. I'll wait until she starts snoring. That noise would cover up a marching band!

They both laugh. Story teller starts a rhythm on the side of his guitar.

Song #4: NO ONE SNORES LIKE STEPMOTHER SNORES (THE SNORE RAP)

GRETEL

DEAR OLD STEPMOTHER DOESN'T HAVE A LOT
THAT MAKES HER STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD.

HANSEL

DOESN'T COOK, DOESN'T SEW, AND SHE DOESN'T PLAY TENNIS.
REALLY DOESN'T TRY TO MAKE HER FAMILY PROUD.

GRETEL

DOESN'T BOUNCE CHILDREN ON HER KNEE.

HANSEL

DOESN'T WRITE BOOKS OF POETRY.

GRETEL

NEVER TRIED TO DANCE.

HANSEL

NEVER TRIED TO SING.

GRETEL

NEVER PUT A SPLINTER ON A BIRD'S BROKEN WING.

HANSEL

DEAR OLD STEPMOTHER DOESN'T HAVE A LOT
THAT MAKES YOU GLAD WHEN SHE'S AROUND.

GRETEL

DOESN'T PLAY WITH THE DOG, DOESN'T DO A LOT OF JOGGING,
DOESN'T PLANT FLOWERS IN THE GROUND.

HANSEL

DOESN'T HAVE NEIGHBOURS IN FOR TEA.

GRETEL

DOESN'T SKATE AND DOESN'T SKI.

HANSEL

NEVER HEARD HER LAUGH.

GRETEL

ONLY HEARD HER GROAN.

BOTH

BUT THERE'S ONE THING FOR WHICH SHE'S KNOWN!

NO ONE SNORES LIKE STEPMOTHER SNORES.

They make the sounds.

CAN BE HEARD THROUGH ANY WINDOWS,
CAN BE HEARD THROUGH ANY DOORS.

The sounds again.

WE GET UNDER THE COVERS, WE PUT THINGS IN OUR EARS,
BUT NOTHING STOPS US HEARING WHAT EVERYBODY HEARS.
THEY'RE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SHUDDER,
THEY'RE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU WEEP,
AND THEY NEVER LET YOU GET A SINGLE DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP,
CUZ THROUGH THE CEILING, THROUGH THE WALLS, THROUGH THE FLOORS,
COME STEPMOTHER'S SNORES!

GRETEL

DEAR OLD STEPMOTHER DOESN'T HAVE A LOT
THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GIVE HER A HUG.

HANSEL

DOESN'T CLEAN, DOESN'T WASH, AND SHE DOESN'T PLAY BASEBALL.
DOESN'T GET THE WATER FOR THE WATER JUG.

GRETEL

DOESN'T TELL STORIES LATE AT NIGHT.

HANSEL

DOESN'T SHOW YOU HOW TO DO ANYTHING RIGHT.

GRETEL

NEVER TRIED TO JUGGLE,

HANSEL

OR PUT ON A PUPPET SHOW.

GRETEL

NEVER HEARD OF YES. SHE ONLY HEARD OF NO.

HANSEL

DEAR OLD STEPMOTHER DOESN'T HAVE A LOT
THAT MAKES YOU SEE HER BETTER SIDE.

GRETEL

DOESN'T HAVE A HOBBY AND SHE DOESN'T PLAY FOOTBALL.
DOUBT YOU'D EVER CATCH HER ON A CIRCUS RIDE.

HANSEL

DOESN'T PLAY CHECKERS, CARDS, OR CHESS,

GRETEL

AND AS FOR PICNICS, SHE COULDN'T CARE LESS.

HANSEL

NEVER FED A SQUIRREL

GRETTEL

OR PUT EGGS BACK IN A NEST,

BOTH

BUT THERE'S ONE THING SHE DOES BEST.

NO ONE SNORES LIKE STEPMOTHER SNORES.

They make the sounds.

CAN BE HEARD THROUGH ANY WINDOW,
CAN BE HEARD THROUGH ANY DOORS.

The sounds again.

WE GET UNDER THE COVERS, WE PUT THINGS IN OUR EARS,
BUT NOTHING STOPS US HEARING WHAT EVERYBODY HEARS.
THEY'RE ENOUGH TO MAKES YOU SHUDDER,
THEY'RE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU WEEP,
AND THEY NEVER LET YOU GET A SINGLE DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP,
CUZ THROUGH THE CEILING, THROUGH THE WALLS, THROUGH THE FLOORS
COME STEPMOTHER'S SNORES!

SOMETIMES THEY'RE WHISPERS, BUT USUALLY THEY'RE ROARS.
MAKE YOU FEEL YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WORST OF WARS.
SHE OPENS UP HER MOUTH AND OUT THE SOUND POURS.
NOBODY, NOBODY, NOBODY, NOBODY,
NOBODY SNORES LIKE STEPMOTHER SNORES!

STORYTELLER

And so that night, while Stepmother snored, Hansel gathered his precious pebbles, while Gretel took some bread crumbs to hide in her apron, just in case. And the following morning, they all set off into the woods.

Song #5: DEEPER AND DEEPER

PETER

WHAT AN ADVENTURE, WHAT A THRILL.
YOU NEVER CAN GET ENOUGH,
YOU NEVER CAN GET YOUR FILL
OF THE WOODS.
WHAT A FANTASTIC ATMOSPHERE.
IT'S A WORLD THAT'S RICH AND ROUGH.
WHO COULD EVER HAVE A FEAR
OF THE WOODS?

HANSEL AND GRETEL

PRINCES OR PAUPERS FEEL THE SAME.
ONCE YOU'RE INSIDE, YOU'RE SO DELIGHTED THAT YOU CAME.
EVERY CORNER HOLDS A NEW MYSTERY.
AND BEST OF ALL, IT'S FREE!

PETER

WHAT AN ADVENTURE, WHAT A RIDE.
YOU CAN NEVER GET TOO MUCH.
YOU CANNOT SEE EV'RY SIDE OF THE WOODS.
WHAT'S AN ILLUSION? WHAT IS REAL?
IT'S A WORLD YOU WANT TO TOUCH,
TO PRETEND YOU HAVE THE FEEL
OF THE WOODS.

HANSEL

To Gretel.

HERE'S WHERE I START TO DROP THE PEBBLES.
WE MAY NOT NEED THEM, BUT THEN AGAIN, WE MAY!
LOVELY, TINY, SHINY PEBBLES,
JUST IN CASE WE NEED THEM TO FIND OUR WAY.

MARIE

HANSEL, WHY DO YOU KEEP TURNING BACK?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

HANSEL AND GRETEL – 14

HANSEL

NOTHING, STEPMOTHER. LOST IN WONDER.
HOW CAN SO MUCH BEAUTY BE?

PETER

COME ON, LET'S GO, WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING

ALL

DEEPER AND DEEPER IN THE WOODS.

GRETEL

DID SHE CATCH YOU?

HANSEL

SHE WAS TRYING.
BUT I THINK I FOOLED HER, DON'T BE CONCERNED.
JUST REMEMBER, THESE ARE OUR WOODS
WHERE WE PLAYED HIDE AND SEEK.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

IN OUR WOODS, WE KNOW EV'RY HILL AND CREEK.

GRETEL

BUT WE'RE GOING SO MUCH DEEPER THAN WE'VE EVER GONE BEFORE.

HANSEL

TRUST ME AND THE PEBBLES. I'VE GOT A HUNDRED MORE.

PETER

COME ON, LET'S GO! WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING

ALL

DEEPER, AND DEEPER IN THE WOODS.
DEEPER AND DEEPER AND DEEPER AND DEEPER
AND DEEPER AND DEEPER AND DEEPER AND DEEPER.

AND DEEPER IN THE WOODS.

PETER

WELL, I MUST ADMIT, I'M TIRED.

HANSEL

ME TOO.

GRETEL

ME TOO.

PETER

WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LITTLE REST?
FATHER KNOWS BEST.

To Marie.

THIS IS INSANE. I CAN'T CONTINUE WITH THIS AWFUL PLAN.

MARIE

THEY'LL BE JUST FINE.
THEY'LL TURN FROM BOY AND GIRL TO WOMAN AND MAN.

PETER

BUT HOW CAN I LET GO OF WHAT'S MOST PRECIOUS IN MY LITTLE WORLD?
THEY HAVE MADE ME FEEL AS WEALTHY AS A KING.
THEY HAVE GIVEN ME THE JOY THAT ONLY ONE'S OWN CHILDREN CAN BRING.
HOW CAN I LET THEM GO? HOW CAN I LET THEM KNOW
THAT I'LL LOVE THEM TIL I DIE?

GOOD-BYE.

Hansel and Gretel are asleep. Peter kisses them. He and Marie leave. The children awake.

GRETEL

HANSEL, WE FELL ASLEEP. HANSEL, WE'RE ALL ALONE.

HANSEL

GRETEL, DON'T BE AFRAID.
WHEN THE STARS COME OUT,
A MAGIC PATHWAY OF STONE WILL LIGHT OUR WAY
AS IT CATCHES THE LIGHT OF THE STARS.
IT'S GONNA BE FINE. JUST WAIT AND SEE,

GRETEL

IT'S NICE TO HAVE YOU LOOKING AFTER ME.
I EVEN FORGIVE YOU FOR THINKING
A POT OF GOLD CAN BE FOUND BY FOLLOWING A STAR,
AND NOT KNOWING WHAT FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS ARE.

HANSEL

LOOK! A STAR! NOW LOOK FOR A PEBBLE.

GRETEL

OVER HERE!

HANSEL

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? WE ARE ON OUR WAY HOME.

GRETEL

THERE'S ANOTHER. COME, HANSEL,
WE ARE GOING HOME.

Music covers their venture through the woods until they appear at the door of their cottage. It is locked. They knock. Marie appears, opens the door, and screams. Once she recovers, she heads downstage and sings directly to the audience.

Song #6:

SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'RE NOT WANTED

MARIE

SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'RE NOT WANTED.
SOME PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

YOU SHOW THEM THE DOOR, BUT THEY KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE.
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GIVE THEM THE SHAKE?
SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'RE NOT WANTED.
THEY GO ON PRETENDING THEY'RE STILL IN DEMAND.
WHY CAN'T THEY SEE WHEN IT'S AS CLEAR AS CLEAR CAN BE?
DON'T HANG AROUND WHEN YOU'RE NOT WANTED.

Spoken over music.

I know I've always tried to do the right thing. So why does it always lead to the wrong result? I was about as obvious as anyone could ask. I took down the "Home, Sweet Home" sign. I removed the welcome mat. I locked the door. What more could I have done to get the message across? Print it in red letters on their foreheads? O.K., O.K. – they're a little slow. But is it my place to suffer for their stupidity?

SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'RE NOT WANTED.
THEY GO ON PRETENDING THEY'RE STILL IN DEMAND.
WHY CAN'T THEY SEE WHEN IT'S AS CLEAR AS CLEAR CAN BE?
DON'T HANG AROUND WHEN YOU'RE NOT WANTED.

Peter!!!

She takes Hansel and Gretel by the ear and leads them off.

STORYTELLER

Peter was overjoyed to see his children again. Unfortunately, in their excitement, they told him how they found their way home, and Marie overheard. So when she insisted they go back in the woods the next day, and Hansel tried to gather more pebbles, he found his Stepmother sleeping (and snoring!) in front of the door, so he could not get out. When they left the next day, the children were sure they would never see their home again.

Song #6a: DEEPER AND DEEPER (reprise)

HANSEL AND GRETEL

ANOTHER ADVENTURE, BUT HEART TO HEART,
YOU CAN SOMETIMES START TO TIRE AND NOT WANT TO BE A PART
OF THE WOODS.
WE SHOULD BE LAUGHING, BUT WE'RE NOT.
IT'S A WORLD WE DO DESIRE, BUT THIS TIME WE MIGHT GET CAUGHT
IN THE WOODS.

GRETEL

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO DROP THE BREAD CRUMBS.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED THEM. THAT MUCH WE KNOW.
LOVELY, YUMMY, CRUMMY BREAD CRUMBS.
THE WAY BACK HOME IS THE WAY THEY'LL SHOW.

MARIE

GRETEL, WHY DO YOU KEEP BENDING DOWN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?

GRETEL

NOTHING, STEPMOTHER.
JUST MAKING SURE THAT I DON'T TRIP AND FALL ON THE GROUND.

PETER

COME ON! LET'S GO! WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING,
DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE WOODS.

After a bit more walking.

THAT'S AS FAR AS I CAN GO.

HANSEL

ME TOO.

GRETEL

ME TOO.

PETER

WE'RE EVEN FARTHER THAN WE WERE YESTERDAY FOR SURE.

Music continues under dialogue.

You relax. We'll gather some wood for a fire. If we're gone too long, open the sack there. You'll find whatever you need.

Peter and Marie exit.

GRETEL

Hansel, let's not wait. The pebbles caught the light of the stars, but we need sunlight to see the bread crumbs.

HANSEL

You're right. Let's go.

GRETEL

What about father's sack? Shall we take it with us?

HANSEL

Yes – there might be something there he needs. Come on, Gretel. Dear old Stepmother's in for a double surprise. Not only will we find our way home, but we'll beat her there!

They exit. Shortly after that, Peter and Marie enter from the other side of the stage.

PETER

Marie! No! No more. We cannot do this. Enough! We're taking them home now. I don't know how we'll make it work, but we have to. Hansel? Gretel? Hansel!! Gretel!!

MARIE

They're gone.

PETER

But why? Where?

MARIE

It appears they understood better than you what had to be done. Come on, foolish man. Let's go home.

She exits.

PETER

What have I done?

Song #7: I DO THE RIGHT THING AT THE WRONG TIME

THIS IS HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN, AS LONG AS I RECALL.
GUESS THAT IN THE SADDLE I WILL NEVER RIDE TOO TALL.

I COULD BE A HERO IF I JUST MADE UP MY MIND A LITTLE FASTER.
WHAT A DISASTER.

EV'RYTIME I THINK THAT WHAT I'M THINKING MAKES SOME SENSE,
I DISCOVER IT'S TOO LATE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
I COULD BE A HERO IF SOMEONE COULD STOP THE CLOCK WHILE I DECIDE
WHICH HORSE TO RIDE.

I DO THE RIGHT THING AT THE WRONG TIME.
WHAT A CRY-YI-YI-YI'IN' SHAME.
BY THE TIME I MAKE MY MOVE, THERE IS NUTHIN' LEFT TO PROVE.
AND I GUESS IT'S ALWAYS GONNA BE THE SAME.

BY THE TIME I TAKE A SWING, THE BALL HAS PASSED ME BY.
BY THE TIME I DUCK, TOO LATE – I'VE GOT A BLACKENED EYE.
I COULD BE A HERO GIVEN TIME
TO STUDY ALL THE THINGS I COULD DO
TO GET TO WHAT I SHOULD DO.

EV'RY TIME I THINK I'M NOT AS BAD AS I PRETEND,
CRUNCH TIME COMES AGAIN AND I HAVE NUTHIN' TO DEFEND.
I COULD BE A HERO IF I KNEW BEFORE THE HERO WAS DESIRED,
WHAT WAS REQUIRED.

I DO THE RIGHT THING AT THE WRONG TIME.
WHAT A CRY-YI-YI-YI'IN' SHAME.
BY THE TIME I MAKE MY MOVE, THERE IS NUTHIN' LEFT TO PROVE.
AND I GUESS IT'S ALWAYS GONNA BE THE SAME. WHAT A PITY.
I GUESS IT'S ALWAYS GONNA BE THE SAME!

Song #7a:

PANIC (reprise)

Cross-fade to Gretel and Hansel.

GRETEL

HANSEL! WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE BREAD CRUMBS I LEFT ARE GONE.

HANSEL

GRETEL, WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
IT APPEARS THEY HAVE BEEN EATEN BY THE BIRDS WHO HAVE FLOWN
AWAY WITH ONLY HOPE OF FINDING HOME.

IT'S GONNA BE FINE, JUST WAIT AND SEE.

GRETEL

IT'S NICE TO HAVE YOU LOOKING AFTER ME!

Song #8:

EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU

EV'RYONE SHOULD HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
LONG AS I REMEMBER, YOU'VE BEEN HERE.
FULL OF LOVE AND CARING,
FULL OF FUN AND SHARING.
WHAT A COMFORT JUST TO HAVE YOU NEAR.

EV'RYONE SHOULD HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE WHERE I'D BE
WITHOUT YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR TRUST.
I THINK I'D TURN TO DUST.
THANK YOU FOR BEING THAT SOMEONE FOR M

She takes Hansel's hand and they go out into the audience, searching for home.

STORYTELLER

And so, Hansel and Gretel, without the help of the pebbles or the bread crumbs, set off to find their way home, asking all the birds and animals along the way to help them.

Song #9: THE HIGHWAY HOME

HANSEL AND GRETEL

LOOKING FOR A PATHWAY OUT OF THE FOREST.
LOOKING FOR THE WAY WE CAME.
CAN ANYBODY HELP US THROUGH THE TREES?
DOES ANYBODY KNOW THE NAME
OF THE HIGHWAY HOME?

HAVE YOU GOT A MAP? HAVE YOU GOT SOME INFORMATION?
GIVE US A LITTLE CLUE.
LAY UPON OUR LAP JUST A LITTLE INDICATION
OF WHAT WE SHOULD DO.

SHOW US HOW TO MAKE THE PROPER TURNS AROUND EACH TREE.
HELP US SEE THE LIGHT LEADING US AWAY FROM THE NIGHT.
WE DON'T WANT TO STAY WHERE WE DON'T BELONG.

LOOKING FOR A PATHWAY OUT OF THE FOREST.
LOOKING FOR THE WAY WE CAME.
CAN ANYBODY HELP US THROUGH THE TREES?
DOES ANYBODY KNOW THE NAME
OF THE HIGHWAY HOME?

HAVE YOU BEEN AROUND? DO YOU KNOW THE TERRITORY?
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT WE'RE SINCERE?
WE'RE LOST, BUT WILL BE FOUND. IT'LL BE A HAPPY STORY.
ONCE WE'RE OUT OF HERE.
THERE AREN'T ANY SIGNS TO SHOW US WHAT WE'RE COMING TO,
SO IF YOU CAN TRY PAINTING US JUST ONE,
WE'LL GET BT TIL THE NEXT ONE'S DONE.
AND IF EVERYONE PITCHES IN, OUR JOURNEY CAN BEGIN.

LOOKING FOR A PATHWAY OUT OF THE FOREST.
LOOKING FOR THE WAY WE CAME.
CAN ANYBODY HELP US THROUGH THE TREES?
DOES ANYBODY KNOW THE NAME
OF THE HIGHWAY HOME?
DOES ANYBODY KNOW THE NAME
OF THE HIGHWAY HOME?

STORYTELLER

They didn't find the highway home, and after three long days, they were getting pretty discouraged.

GRETEL

It's hopeless. We'll never find a way out.

HANSEL

I had no idea the woods were this big.

GRETEL

Hansel, look over there.

HANSEL

Wow. That's the most beautiful bird I've ever seen.

GRETEL

Oh – it's flying away.

HANSEL

No – look. It's coming back. Gretel, she wants us to follow her.

GRETEL

You really think so?

HANSEL

Yes! Yes! This is it. This is our chance.

GRETEL

But Hansel ...

HANSEL

We can't be any worse off than we are.

GRETEL

O.K. I guess it's worth a try.

STORYTELLER

And so it was that Hansel and Gretel followed the beautiful white bird through the forest to the most unbelievable sight: The Gingerbread Ranch!

The candy-coated Ranch House appears.

GRETEL

I don't believe my eyes!

HANSEL

It's all made of candy!

GRETEL

Hansel – let's get out of here!

HANSEL

Not a chance. I'm starved!

He approaches and starts to nibble on a corner or two.

GRETTEL

Hansel, be careful

HANSEL

What are you worried about? Cavities in my teeth?

HELGA

From inside the house.

Who's out there? Do I hear voices?

Hansel and Gretel make animal noises, but are frozen in fear.

What could it be? Squirrels? Chipmunks? Raccoons? Deer?

She comes out. Even young, inexperienced eyes can see she is a witch.

Why no! It's children! How wonderful!!

Song #10: COME ON IN, YOU'RE WELCOME

COME ON IN, YOU'RE WELCOME TO ANYTHING YOU SEE.

KICK OFF YOUR BOOTS. LET'S BE IN CAHOOTS. I LOVE THE COMPANY.

COME ON IN, YOU'RE WELCOME FOR AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE TO STAY.

MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN ...

To audience.

THOUGH IT OPENS JUST ONE WAY!

HANSEL

WHAT A PARADISE! WHEN DID YOU BUILD IT?

IF IT WASN'T SO SECLUDED, YOU'D HAVE KIDS HERE 'ROUND THE CLOCK.

WHAT A PARADISE! YOU MUST LOVE CHILDREN

I'M IN HEAVEN, I'M IN SHOCK.

IT SEEMS SO STRANGE THAT YOU WOULD GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE
WHERE SO FEW MIGHT WANDER BY. SOMETHING DOESN'T MEET THE EYE.
WHY WOULDN'T YOU HAVE CHOSEN SOMEWHERE WHERE AS MANY KIDS
AS POSSIBLE COULD COME FOR A TASTE OF SUGAR PLUM?

CAN'T FIGURE OUT IF YOU'RE A COWGIRL ANGEL
OR JUST A WITCH IN DISGUISE.
YOU MIGHT BE EVERYTHING THAT YOU APPEAR TO BE.
STILL I KNOW YOU'LL UNDERSTAND A LITTLE CAUTION IS WISE.

HELGA

MY DARLING CHILDREN, ASK ME ANYTHING YOU PLEASE.

AT THE GINGERBREAD RANCH, I WANT YOU TO FEEL AT EASE.

HANSEL, GRETEL

AT THE GINGERBREAD RANCH IT'S A CANDY-COATED SPHERE.

HELGA

AT THE GINGERBREAD RANCH, WE DON'T WANT TO SEE A TEAR.

HANSEL, GRETEL

AT THE GINGERBREAD RANCH, ALL YOUR TROUBLES DISAPPEAR.

HELGA

Aside.

AND SO DO YOU!

COME ON IN, YOU'RE WELCOME TO ANYTHING YOU SEE.
KICK OFF YOUR BOOTS. LET'S BE IN CAHOOTS. I LOVE THE COMPANY.
COME ON IN, YOU'RE WELCOME FOR AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE TO STAY.
MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN,

Aside.

THOUGH IT OPENS JUST ONE WAY.

GRETEL

To Hansel.

MAYBE SHE'S FOR REAL.
IT'S HARD TO QUITE BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE WOULD DO ALL OF THIS
WITH EVIL THOUGHTS IN MIND.
MAYBE SHE'S FOR REAL,
SOMEONE WHO'S GENUINELY GENEROUS AND KIND.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

WE HAVE TO TRUST SOMEBODY
AND SHE TOOK US IN WHEN WE WERE HUNGRY, WET, AND COLD.
DIDN'T PRY AND DIDN'T SCOLD.
WE HAVE TO TRUST SOMEBODY.
NOTHING SHE HAS SAID WOULD GIVE US ANYTHING TO FEAR,
AND IT'S AWFULLY WARM IN HERE!

HANSEL

To Helga.

I'M QUITE CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE A COWGIRL ANGEL,
AND NOT A WITCH IN DISGUISE.

GRETEL

FORGIVE ME ALL MY QUESTIONS. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT,
AND ALTHOUGH WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER, THAT IS ALL THAT WE'VE GOT!

HELGA

MY DARLING CHILDREN, ASK ME ANYTHING YOU PLEASE.

AT THE GINGERBRED RANCH, I WANT YOU TO FEEL AT EASE.

HANSEL, GRETEL

AT THE GINGERBREAD RANCH, IT'S A CANDY-COATED SPHERE.

HELGA

AT THE GINGERBREAD RANCH, WE DON'T WANT TO SEE A TEAR.

HANSEL, GRETEL

AT THE GINGERBREAD RANCH, ALL YOUR TROUBLES DISAPPEAR.

HELGA

AND NOW IT'S TIME TO CLOSE YOUR EYES AND GO TO SLEEP.
PUT YOUR CARES BEHIND YOU.
LET THE SANDMAN FIND YOU FAST ASLEEP.

Lights dim. Children sing a whispered song after Helga tiptoes out of the room.

Song #11: THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM

GRETEL

I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM,
TALKING TO AN ANGEL.
SHE SAID "THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM."
WHAT A CARING ANGEL.
SHOULD I BE ALARMED OR JUST AMUSED?
ARE MY FANCIES CHARMED OR JUST CONFUSED?

HANSEL

I JUST HAD A DREAM AS WELL,
VOICES VERY DISTANT,
SAYING, "CAREFUL, YOU CAN NEVER TELL."
VOICES SO PERSISTANT.
IS THERE A CONNECTION 'TWEEN THE TWO,
GIVING US DIRECTION WHAT TO DO?

GRETEL AND HANSEL

LET'S DECIDE IN THE MORNING
IF IT REALLY WAS A WARNING
WHILE WE'RE EATING PEACHES AND CREAM.

Giggles. They fall asleep. Soft spot on Helga just outside their door with a candle. Quietly, in a whisper.

HELGA

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM.

She blows out the candle. Blackout.

Bright lights. The next morning. Helga walks in and throws the covers off the children, to music loud and incessant.

Song #12: THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT

HELGA

Rise and shine, my sweets. Time for you both to get a serious wakeup call!

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT. WE'RE REDEFINING THE RULES.
IN THE COLD MORNING LIGHT, I HAVE DECIDED YOU'RE FOOLS.

To Hansel.

SO YOU'LL BE LOCKED IN THE BARN LIKE A COMMON CROOK.

To Gretel.

YOU GO TO THE KITCHEN AND YOU START TO COOK.

WHAT A THING TO FACE ON WAKING.

YESTERDAY, I WAS FAKING!

HANSEL

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT. I GUESS MY DREAM DIDN'T LIE.
I SAW A HOUSE AND TOOK A BITE AND NOW I'M LIABLE TO DIE.
I SHOULD HAVE EXCISED SOME CAUTION THAT BELIED MY YOUTH.
INSTEAD, I FELL A VICTIM TO THAT OLD SWEET TOOTH.
WHAT A PRICE TO PAY FOR EATING.
MY SELF-ESTEEM IS TAKING A BEATING.

GRETEL

OH, IT MAKES ME SHIVER WHEN I HEAR THE WITCH DELIVER LITTLE CACKLES.
WHAT A WILD DECEPTION! CANDY FLOSS AT THE RECEPTION, NOW IT'S SHACKLES.

ALL THREE

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT. WE ALL WILL HAVE TO ADJUST.
NO MORE PRETENDING POLITE, NOW THIS BALLOON HAS BEEN BUST.

HELGA

I CAN BE WICKED AS I WANT. NO NEED FOR ETIQUETTE.

HANSEL, GRETEL

AND WE CAN TRY ESCAPING EV'RY CHANCE WE GET.

ALL THREE

AMAZING HOW OVERNIGHT, THINGS CAN CHANGE!

WHEN WE CHOSE TO SLUMBER, DIDN'T HAVE EACH OTHER'S NUMBER.
WE WERE STRANGERS.

NOW THE SITUATION'S STABLE. ALL THE CARDS ARE ON THE TABLE,
AND THE DANGERS.

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT, AND WE ARE ALL KINDA TENSE.
THE DAY IS SUNNY AND BRIGHT. SOMEHOW THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
TELL US, WHO'D HAVE EVER RECKONED ON THIS CIRCUMSTANCE?
WHOEVER COMES IN SECOND TAKES AN AWFUL CHANCE!
AMAZING HOW THINGS CAN CHANGE OUT HERE ON THE GINGERBREAD RANCH.
AMAZING HOW THINGS CAN CHANGE OVERNIGHT!

STORYTELLER

So Hansel Was taken to the barn and locked up. Gretel went to the kitchen and was told to cook the most fattening meals she could. And the witch watched and waited.

HELGA

What a feast he'll make. I can hardly wait to taste him!

GRETEL

There must be a way of getting Hansel out of that barn. There has to be!

Focus to the barn.

HANSEL

We'll figure something out. Won't we? Just stay calm, Hansel. Me, worried? Nah. Maybe a little bit. Well, perhaps more than a little. In fairness, I'd have to say I'm pretty much ... frantic. But I'm young and frantic. And whatever else that witch is, she may appear in control, but she's old. And while young people make mistakes, old people do too. We just have to survive until she does.

Lights up on Helga outside the barn door, listening.

HANSEL AND GRETEL - 30

HELGA

Foolish child. I do not make mistakes. Yes, I'm old, but I'm old and wickedly wise. In fact, I'm so wise that I actually know that I'm old. An old witch. How did I allow that to happen? I used to be so young, and wickedly beautiful. No matter. I am still a force to be reckoned with.

She goes to the barn door.

Alright, sonny. Poke one of your fingers out here so I can measure it.

HANSEL

Why should I?

HELGA

I need something to judge your progress by. As your finger gets plumper, so does the rest of you. Is it there?

HANSEL

What?

HELGA

Your finger.

HANSEL

Can't you tell? Are you blind?

HELGA

Song #13:

EVEN WITCHES GET OLD

MY EYES, THEY'RE NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE.
THERE ARE THINGS THAT I CANNOT SEE -
RECIPES FOR WITCHES' BREWS.
WANDS AND CAPES, I SEEM TO LOSE.

STORYTELLER

EVEN WITCHES GET OLD.

GRETEL

Calling from the kitchen.

Meal's ready.

HELGA

What did she say?

HANSEL

What's the matter, old woman? Are you deaf?

HELGA

I'M HEARING LESS THAN I USED TO HEAR.
NOTHING'S EVER COMPLETELY CLEAR.
THERE ARE HOWLING WINDS I HATE TO MISS,
AND SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT THAT ONCE WERE BLISS!

STORYTELLER

EVEN WITCHES GET OLD.

HANSEL

It smells delicious. Even if you can't hear her calling, surely you can smell what she's cooking!

STORYTELLER

SMELLS THAT HELPED HER EVIL SPIRITS LIFT A BIT
NOW DON'T MAKE HER AGING NOSTRILS TWITCH.
THE WORSE THE SMELL, THE MORE SHE WENT AND SNIFFED AT IT,
WHEN SHE WAS A YOUNGER WITCH.

GRETEL

Yelling.

Are you coming in or not?

HELGA

In a moment, in a moment.

To Hansel.

First the finger. Show me the finger.

Hansel pushes a thin bone out for her to feel.

HANSEL

Alright. There you go.

GRETEL

Watching from the door to the house.

Hansel ...!

He motions for her to be quiet.

HELGA

That's it? That's all there is? Why, there's no meat on your bones at all! At least, I don't feel any.

MY SENSE OF FELL ISN'T WORKING MUCH.
WITHOUT A MOON, I AM OUT OF TOUCH.
WHAT IS STONE, AND WHAT IS BREAD?
WHAT'S ALIVE, AND WHAT IS DEAD?

STORYTELLER

EVEN WITCHES GET OLD.

HELGA

Ah, I know what I'll do. You won't trick old Helga, sonny. I'll get my Merlin Magnifying Glass. It was a gift from Merlin himself. Just before I ate him, I recall. Now where did I put it? Oh, bother – it must be around here somewhere. If only I could remember where I left it.

She searches.

STORYTELLER

HER MEM'RY ONCE WAS FEARED AS MUCH AS ALL HER SPELLS.
IF YOU CROSSED HER, SHE DID NOT FORGET.
NOW HER MIND IS NOT A FORCE THAT SETS OFF WARNING BELLS,
THOUGH SHE HASN'T LOST IT YET.

GRETEL

Having snuck over to Hansel. Whispering.

Hansel, be careful. If she finds out you're playing a trick on her, she may not bother with waiting to fatten you up!

HANSEL

It's OK. I know what I'm doing.

GRETEL

But there's no telling what she'll do if she gets angry!

HELGA

What are you two whispering about?

GRETEL

I just brought him his meal.

HELGA

Did he eat it?

GRETEL

Every bite!

HELGA

Good. Oh, I have to sit down. I ache all over.

ONCE I COLLECTED SOME HORRID SNAKES.
NOW I'M COLLECTING PAINS AND ACHES.
BEING UNSTEADY BRINGS ME GLOOM.
LAST NIGHT, I FELL OFF OF MY BROOM.

STORYTELLER

EVEN WITCHES GET OLD.

HELGA, STORYTELLER

IT'S HARD TO STRIKE FEAR INTO HEARTS
WHEN YOU'RE CONCERNED 'BOUT THE STATE OF YOUR BODY PARTS!

HELGA, STORYTELLER, HANSEL, GRETEL

EVEN WITCHES GET OLD.

Helga hobbles off.

HANSEL

You're not really worried about that old creature, are you? She's falling apart before our very eyes.

GRETEL

Hansel, if she really is a witch, I don't think we should get too sure of ourselves.

HANSEL

It's just a matter of time. I promise you. Before you know it, we'll be back home again.

GRETEL

Listening to Stepmother's snores!

HANSEL

I think I might even be able to handle that. Anything is better than this.

Song #14: ONCE WE'RE HOME

GRETEL

ONCE WE'RE HOME, WE'LL WONDER, "DID THIS HAPPEN?".

HANSEL

ONCE WE'RE HOME, WE'LL TAKE THE TIME FOR LAUGHTER.

BOTH

ALL OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS,
ALL OUR CRIES AND TEARS
WILL GIVE WAY TO HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

GRETEL

ONCE WE'RE HOME, WE'LL GO FOR WALKS TOGETHER.

HANSEL

TOUCH THE LEAVES AND WONDER AT THE MOON.

BOTH

THIS WILL BE BEHIND US.
SURELY SOMEONE WILL FIND US
AND TAKE US HOME.

STORYTELLER

So day after day, Helga came to the barn to check Hansel's finger. And day after day, Hansel offered her the bone to feel. Helga got more and more frustrated at the fact that no matter how much they fed the boy in the barn, he didn't seem to get any fatter. Still, for a time it worked. Until that fateful day ...

HELGA

OK, it's testing time.

GRETEL

What do you mean?

Song #15: TESTING OUT THE OVEN

HELGA

I THINK HE'S FAT ENOUGH. I'VE WAITED FAR TOO LONG.
I'M READY FOR MY TREAT NOW, BEFORE SOMETHING CAN GO WRONG.

GRETEL

BUT HE'S TOO THIN! DON'T BE IN A RUSH.
HAVE SOME CANDY. HAVE SOME MUSH!

HELGA

NO, IT'S TIME, TIME FOR TESTING OUT THE OVEN.

HANSEL

THIS ISN'T LOOKING GOOD. I'VE GOT TO CUT A DEAL.
LET THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING, I DON'T WANT TO BE HER MEAL.

GRETEL

TAKE MORE TIME TO BEEF UP HIS CORE.
WHAT'S WORTHWHILE'S WORTH WAITING FOR.

HELGA

NO, IT'S TIME FOR TESTING OUT THE OVEN.

HELGA

HANSEL, GRETEL

TESTING, TESTING, TESTING, TESTING,
TESTING TESTING, TESTING.
TAKES TOO LONG TO HEAT.
TESTING, TESTING, TESTING, TESTING,
TESTING, TESTING, TESTING.
WHAT'S THE BEST TEMPERATURE FOR MEAT?

AH, THIS IS
SCARY.
WHERE'S THE GOOD
FAIRY?

HANSEL

TESTING, TESTING, TESTING, TESTING,
TESTING, TESTING, TESTING.
HOW I LOVE TO COOK.
TESTING, TESTING, TESTING, TESTING,
TESTING, TESTING, TESTING.
WHERE'S THAT RECIPE BOOK?

MY OBIT, THEY'RE
POSTING.
CUZ SOON, I'LL BE
ROASTING.

HELGA

IS IT GETTING HOT? I FIND IT HARD TO KNOW.
I JUST HAD A THOUGHT. GRETEL, IN YOU GO.

GRETEL

I COULD NEVER FIT THROUGH THE DOOR.

HELGA

TRY IT. YOU'LL LIKE IT.

GRETEL

THAT'S ADVICE I'LL JUST IGNORE.

HELGA

GO – IT'S TIME FOR TESTING OUT THE OVEN.

HELGA

TESTING, TESTING, TESTING, TESTING,
TESTING, TESTING, TESTING, TESTING,
MY TONGUE IS ITCHIN'.
TESTING, TESTING, TESTING, TESTING,
TESTING, TESTING, TESTING, TESTING,
I LOVE IT IN THE KITCHEN.

GRETEL, HANSEL

WE'RE FILLED WITH
DEEP REMORSE.
SHE WANTS US
EACH AS A COURSE.

GRETEL

WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME HOW T'S DONE?

HELGA

OH, YOU STUPID ONE!
LIKE THIS!

Helga gets her head in the oven. Gretel pushes her all the way in and closes the door.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

TESTING OUT THE OVEN.
IT WORKS!

Gretel grabs the keys and opens the barn door. The children dance and hug each other.

GRETEL

We did it!

HANSEL

I'm free! Clever girl.

She bows.

GRETEL

Thank you, sir.

HANSEL

I was never worried.

GRETEL

Liar!

HANSEL

Well, maybe once or twice.

GRETEL

Let's go home.

HANSEL

Do you need anything from the Ranchhouse?

GRETEL

No. Wait – yes! The sack that Father left for us.

HANSEL

What's in it?

GRFTFL

I don't know. That old witch took it away and never let me look inside.

HANSEL

Well, get it then, and let's get out of here.

Gretel runs into the house.

Song #15a: THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT (Reprise)

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT.
HOW QUICKLY THINGS CAN OCCUR.
THE WITCH'S STRANGE APPETITE
PROVED TO BE THE END OF HER.
ALTHOUGH IT'S WORKED OUT FOR THE BETTER, I CAN NOW ADMIT
I WAS GETTING NERVOUS AT THE THOUGHT OF IT.
WHO WANTS TO BE AN APPETIZER
FOLDED UP IN A KAISER?

Gretel returns with the sack.

GRETEL

Hansel! You won't believe it. All those days walking through the woods, we never thought to look in Father's sack.

HANSEL

What's there?

GRETEL

Food, clothing and a map home!

BOTH

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT. THINGS ARE LOOKING KINDA GOOD.
THEY WERE LOOKING KINDA TIGHT, BUT NOW THE WITCH IS FIREWOOD.
WE'VE GOT OUR FREEDOM AND A MAP. NOW WE ARE HOMeward BOUND.
SURELY WITH OUR CHANGE IN LUCK, IT CAN BE FOUND.

YESTERDAY, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT?
WE'VE GOT A MAP, AND HELGA BOUGHT IT.

They start on their way home

WHAT A HAPPY STORY. WE WERE SO SAD AND WE WERE SORRY.
NOW WE'RE WAY UP.
THE SONGS WE SANG WERE HURTIN'. NOW THEY'RE NOT, AND WE ARE CERTAIN
THEY WILL STAY UP.

Peter enters from the opposite side of the stage.

PETER

Hansel!!! Gretel!!!

BOTH

Father!!!

PETER

I've looked everywhere for you. I'd almost given up hope. What happened? Are you all right?

GRETEL

We're find ... now.

HANSEL AND GRETEL – 40

HANSEL

But have we got a story to tell you!!

ALL THREE

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OVERNIGHT.
THE FAMILY WAS SPLIT APART.
WE HAD A HORRIBLE FRIGHT.
BUT NOW WE'LL TRY A NEW START.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE A NEW BEGINNING WE'LL APPRECIATE,
STARTING OFF BY GRINNING AT OUR TURN OF FATE.
AMAZING HOW THINGS CAN CHANGE,
ALTHOUGH IT STILL SEEMS A LITTLE STRANGE,
AMAZING HOW THINGS CAN CHANGE OVERNIGHT!

Hansel and Gretel exit. Peter hangs back and becomes the storyteller one last time.

STORYTELLER

Yes, they got home safely, and they lived ... pretty happily after. The only problem? Well – Stepmother still snores. But then, you can't have everything.

Fade to black.

THE END

