

# THE BOOK OF SPELLS



No Wizard Should Be Without It!

*Adapted by Tish Poorman and Zachary Pachol  
From The Book of Spells by Edward Marsh*

## CHARACTERS

NARRATOR 1, a storyteller

NARRATOR 2, a storyteller

KING NIKOLAS, a very bored king who only wants to have some fun

QUEEN KATRINA, King's wife who becomes angry with him

PRINCE PETER, spoiled son of the King and Queen

PRINCESS IRENA, spoiled daughter of the King and Queen

MADAM SUZY CREPE, the palace cook with a French accent

MADAM CROISSANT, the palace cook with a French accent

SIR RAMBLESONALOT, Prime Minister

KNIGHT NEWAY, the King's Knight

KNIGHT NEWTON, the King's Knight

MAID MARY BONKERS, the palace maid obsessed with dust bunnies

SIGNORA PIZZICATO, the music teacher with an Italian accent

GENERAL BANG BANG, the army commander with a loud personality

SERGEANT BOOM, army soldier – obedient to the General

SERGEANT BING, army soldier – obedient to the General

SERGEANT BEEP, army soldier – obedient to the General

ROSIE, Princess Irena's handmaiden

THE ARCHBISHOP, an old churchman

MRS. DIFFICULT, King's servant with southern accent

MRS. DIFFICULT, King's servant with southern accent

IZZY, Mr. and Mrs. Difficult's daughter – spoiled brat with a southern accent

TIZZY, Mr. and Mrs. Difficult's daughter – very nervous with a southern accent

BIZZY, Mr. and Mrs. Difficult's daughter – always on her phone with a southern accent

LIZZY, Mr. and Mrs. Difficult's daughter – chews gum with a southern accent

DIZZY, Mr. and Mrs. Difficult's daughter – can't walk straight with a southern accent

DUCHESS TINKER, the Queen's confidant – in charge of the Ladies of the Court

DUKE TINKER, the King's confidant – in charge of the Lords of the Court

LADY IN WAITING, servant of Duchess Tinker

LADY IN WAITING, servant of Duchess Tinker

LORD OF THE COURT, servant of Duke Tinker

LORD OF THE COURT, servant of Duke Tinker

COURT JESTER, a fool – mime, no spoken lines

BARON VON SNAZZY, King's clothing advisor with a German accent

ZOZO – A Wizardess

**SCENE ONE – Palace Garden**

**SCENE TWO – Hallway**

**SCENE THREE – Dining Room**

**SCENE FOUR – Throne Room**

**SCENE ONE– [The palace garden. A bench with a book lying on it is SL. Some representations of bushes and shrubs are near the bench.]**

(NARRATORS enter.)

NARRATOR 1: Welcome to a delightful tale of a King named Nikolas.

NARRATOR 2: King Nikolas was a very bored king until one day he found a book in the garden.

NARRATOR 1: But this wasn't any ordinary book!

NARRATOR 2: Oh, no! This was a magical book!

NARRATOR 1: Yes, it was, and he didn't know what he would get himself into when he started reading it!

NARRATOR 2: So, let's step into a world of magic and join King Nikolas on his enchanting adventure...

NARRATOR 1: as he discovers,

BOTH: The Book of Spells!! (Narrators exit.)

(QUEEN KATRINA enters SR, followed by PRINCE PETER and PRINCESS IRENA.)

QUEEN: Now be good children and don't bother me. I've lots to do.

PRINCE: But mother, I can't find father anywhere!

PRINCESS: And I've been looking for him too, everywhere!

QUEEN: So, have I. He's probably having one of his sulking sessions and hiding somewhere.

PRINCE: It's not fair!

QUEEN: What's not fair, Peter?

PRINCE: I get punished when I sulk.

PRINCESS: If we were grown up then we could behave any way we liked.

QUEEN: It's not all fun being grown up, Irena. You'll find out for yourself someday.

PRINCE: Nobody says, 'You can't do that' or 'You mustn't do this' to grownups.

QUEEN: What funny ideas you children have. I'll certainly have something to say to the king when I find him. So run along and play – both of you.

PRINCESS: But mother –

QUEEN: Do as you're told, Irena, and don't argue.

PRINCE: You see Irena! Just as I said. When you're not a grown-up, it's 'Do as you're told and don't argue.'

QUEEN: Enough is enough, Peter. Off you go – both of you. Out!

PRINCE: (As he and the Princess start to exit SL) I'm still going to look for father.

PRINCESS: Me too!

QUEEN: (As she starts to exit SR) Me too! I mean, so shall I!

(They exit. King Nikolas peeps from behind the bushes where he has been hiding.)

KING: Thank goodness! (As he comes out of hiding) Nothing exciting ever happens here. It's nothing but work, work, work for me all day and every day. It's 'King Nikolas, please sign this,'

(moves DSC) 'King Nikolas what shall we do about that?' Decisions, decisions, decisions. (moves

DSR) I'm bored to death with the whole business of being a king. All I want is to be left in peace. That's why I was hiding from everyone.

(He walks toward the bench and as he does, the Queen tiptoes back in. He sits and then jumps up.)

KING: Oh, what's that? (Sits on book, picks it up and stays standing.)

QUEEN: (Aside) He doesn't know I'm here so now I'll see what he's up to. (Move DSR)

KING: A book! Probably left here by Peter or Irena. I must speak to those children about leaving things all over! (Looks at the book and reads the cover) "The Book of Spells. No wizard should be without it!" This can't belong to the children. The Book of Spells, eh! I've always wanted to be a wizard. Oh, this will be fun! (He sits again and starts to read the book) How to make a – Oh – I say – that's very funny. (Turns another page) Oh – Oh dear – well, I would never have believed it. Interesting. I wonder if it works! (He continues to read and doesn't notice the Queen.)

QUEEN: (Loudly) what have you got there Nikolas?

KING: (Startled) Oh! You nearly made me jump out of my skin. Don't ever do that again.

QUEEN: I only asked what you were reading.

KING: Oh - er- just a book.

QUEEN: Don't be ridiculous, Nikolas. (Moves closer to the King.)

KING: (Cutting in angrily) And don't say that!

QUEEN: Don't say what?

KING: That 'Don't be ridiculous, Nikolas' remark! It sounds like a joke.

QUEEN: Sorry, dear. You're hiding something.

KING: I told you, it's just a book.

QUEEN: I can see that but what book?

KING: A book of magic spells and now I'm a wizard.

QUEEN: (Laughing) Oh, Nikolas, you're being ridicu...

KING: (Angrily) Don't say that!

QUEEN: Well, don't be so silly! You're a king, not a wizard and you couldn't cast a spell if you tried.

KING: (Stands) That's what you think. I'll show you! (He turns a page of the book and starts to read as the Narrators enter. King and Queen freeze.)

NARRATOR 1: That did it for King Nikolas!

NARRATOR 2: And Queen Katrina has no idea what's in that book.

NARRATOR 1: But they're both going to find out.

NARRATOR 2: And things are going to get a little crazy around here! (Narrators exit. King and Queen unfreeze)

KING: (He stands) Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho (waving his arms at the Queen) be the last thing you thought of.

QUEEN: (Thinks for a moment) I was thinking about a chicken for dinner – Cluck-cluck! Cl-u-ck! Cl-u-ck! (She runs around the stage flapping her arms like wings and clucking like a chicken)

KING: (Rather amazed) Dear me- goodness gracious me! Oh golly! Oh wow!

(The Queen stands in front of him flapping her arms and continues clucking as she exits.)

KING: It works! It really works! Ha, ha, ha. This is going to be great fun. I've never seen Katrina look so silly. This is going to be great!

(PRINCE PETER enters SR)

PRINCE: Oh, Dad, I'm so glad I found you.

KING: I'm not. Run away and play. There's a good boy.

Prince: But, Dad, may I...

KING: NO, you may not.

PRINCE: But I haven't even asked you yet.

KING: Whatever it is – NO – you may not. Don't worry me. I have an interesting new book to read.

PRINCE: May I read it?

KING: No, you may not.

PRINCE: Why?

KING: Never mind why. Run away and play.

PRINCE: But Dad – may I-

KING: For the last time – NO – you may not.

PRINCE: Just because you're a king you order everyone about.

KING: Ah, but I'm not a king.

PRINCE: Of course you are. You're my dad and you're a king.

KING: That's what you think, but now I am a wizard. So – Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho- be the last thing you thought of.

PRINCE: (Thinking) I was thinking about my new puppy. Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! (Falling on all fours, he runs around the stage barking and howling like a dog. Exits SR)

KING: (Laughing) Out, boy, out! This is a wizard way to get rid of people. (He goes back to the reading.)

(PRINCESS IRENA skips in SL)

PRINCESS: Oh, Daddy, I wanted to ask you –

KING: Can't you see I'm very busy? A man never gets any peace at home.

PRINCESS: (Sits on the King's lap) I'm sorry, Daddy, darling, but I only wanted to ask you if –

KING: (He pushes her off his lap and she falls) Irena, I'm very busy. Don't push me.

PRINCESS: (Gets on her knees) But please Daddy –

KING: (Stands) Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

PRINCESS: (Stands) Oh dear – oh dear – I was thinking about my pet canary. Tweet, tweet! Tweet, tweet! (She runs around the stage "tweeting" like a bird and exits.)

KING: (Laughing) Now maybe there won't be any more interruptions! It's a great pity I didn't get this book years ago. Perhaps now I can finish it. (He sits once again and reads.)

(Enter MADAM SUZY CREPE and MADAM CROISSANT)

CREPE: (Holds a tray with snails on it) Ah, your Majesty. We've been looking everywhere for you. (Move to DSC)

KING: Oh, yes, Madam Crepe, I suppose it's about dinner. Ask the Queen. I'm busy.

CREPE: Yes, your Majesty but I couldn't get a word of sense out of her. Now I've found you. You'll have to decide.

CROISSANT: Now, we have a little treat to help you decide what you would like!

KING: No, that's not necessary. I just want to read my boooo....

CREPE: Ta-da! Look your majesty! It is the escargot! A French treat! And with the perfect amount of salt, too!

KING: Really, Madam Crepe, Madam Croissant, it seems lovely, but I just want...

CROISSANT: Try! Try! (Shoves escargot in his face) The snails, I mean, escargot are deeelicious!

KING: Yes, yes, now will you please let me read my book in peace?

CROISSANT: But what do you want for dinner?

CREPE: You still have not said, your Majesty.

KING: Escargot will be fine. Now leave me alone.

CROISSANT: Why only fine? Escargot is a masterpiece!

CREPE: Especially with just the perfect amount of salt! Mmmm!

KING: (Angrily) Crepe, Croissant! I just want to read my book!

CREPE: Is it a cookbook?

KING: NO!

CREPE: Then, I am not interested.

KING: Good! Now leave me be.

CROISSANT: Your Majesty –

KING: I am not your Majesty anymore.

CROISSANT and CREPE: (Laughing) Yes, your Majesty.

KING: (Rising. Cross to DSC) I am NOT your Majesty. I am a wizard.

CROISSANT: A wizard! Your Majesty seems to be in a very flippant mood today.

CREPE: Well, men must have their little jokes. A wizard? That's extraordinary.

KING: Yes, I'm a wizard. So – Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

CROISSANT: Well—I was thinking of escargot – snails! SNAILS... Meuhh, meuhh. Enhh! Enhh!

Meuhh! (She walks slowly around the stage making strange "snail" sounds)

CREPE: Why I was thinking about salt for the escargot! Salt! Shake, shake, shake, shake! Shake, shake, shake! (She chases Croissant putting "salt" on her. Croissant runs in slow motion DSC then to USC and they exit SL)

KING: Ha, ha, ha! Ho, ho, ho! They were always telling me it was time to do something or other.

Serves them right. Oh, I haven't had this much fun in years. Now, back to the book!

(SIR RAMBLESONALOT enters using a cane. He is old and has difficulty walking. He holds a piece of paper and pen in his hand.)

SIR RAMBLESONALOT: My young King, it is I, Sir Ramblesonalot, your Prime Minister. I just wanted to say that today is such a beautiful day. This garden is amazing, is it not, my Majesty? Look at the birds flying, singing, saying hello to their other bird friends...

KING: Sir Ramblesonalot, can we please –

SIR RAMBLESONALOT: Back in my day, you had to walk 48 miles just to see a bird! And don't get me started on frogs. Do you see that frog right there, my Majesty. It is a very green frog. Did you know there are many different shades of green...?

KING: I have very important things to do right now-

SIR RAMBLESONALOT: Emerald, lime, olive, sage, pine, evergreen, moss, dark green, light green, slime...

KING: Is there a point?

SIR RAMBLESONALOT: Ah, yes...the point! Well, I need you to sign these new laws into effect that say people cannot turn into frogs under any circumstances. (Hands paper and pen to the King)

KING: (Signs the paperwork) Now it is law. Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

SIR RAMBLESONALOT: (Turns into a frog) Oh my. I'm a frog. I've just broken the law! My family and generations to come shall be ashamed of the once great and mighty Sir Ramblesonalot. (Hops offstage making frog sounds)

(KNIGHT NEWHEY and KNIGHT NEWTON enter in a hurry.)

KNIGHT NEWHEY: Your majesty, we came as fast as we could!

KNIGHT NEWTON: As fast as horses!

KNIGHT NEWHEY: As fast as horses and lightning!

KNIGHT NEWTON: Newey, it's just horses!

KNIGHT NEWHEY: Newton, it's lightning!

KNIGHT NEWTON: Horses!

KNIGHT NEWHEY: Lightning!

KNIGHT NEWTON: Horses!

KING: Get on with it!

KNIGHT NEWHEY: Well, your Majesty, we just saw Sir Ramblesonalot turn into a frog!

KNIGHT NEWTON: Which is strictly forbidden under any circumstances.

KING: Wait, how did you know that? I just signed it into law.

KNIGHT NEWHEY: We heard it from offstage.

KNIGHT NEWTON: It makes no difference. We must catch up to that lawless frog of a man.

KING: I'll help you out. Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

KNIGHTS: Horses! (They gallop offstage, like going into battle)

(MAID MARY BONKERS enters carrying a broom)

MAID: ("Knocks" on door.) Knock, knock! Knock, knock! Knock, knock!

KING: (Sighs) Maid Mary Bonkers, I'm in the garden and there isn't a door to knock on!

MAID: (Enters) Knock, knock! Who's there? Mary. Mary who? Maid Mary! (laughs hysterically, stops abruptly and gasps)

KING: What? What is it?

MAID: Don't you hear them? The dust bunnies. Come out, come out wherever you are!

KING: Maid Mary Bonkers there aren't any dust bunnies in the garden.

MAID: They're everywhere. (She begins to sweep) And they're with the lamb.

KING: Dare I ask what lamb?

MAID: MY little lamb! Oh, my poor little lamb. Those dust bunnies will take over!

KING: Can we discuss this some other time?

MAID: I really think this is the right time! It's crucial! Dust bunnies and lamb just don't mix unless you want fleece all over too! Those little dust bunnies are scurrying about and they're nothing but trouble. They'll get all over my little lamb!

KING: Go away, Maid Mary!

MAID: I'm not leaving until those dust bunnies are gone.

KING: Oh, yes you are – Hey fol dee rol and hi diddle dee ho, be the last thing you thought of.

MAID: Why I was thinking about my lamb – BAAAAA! I must rescue it from the dust bunnies (She begins to sing Mary Had A Little Lamb and makes lamb sounds. Exits)

KING: She really is a nuisance and makes no sense whatsoever. She goes on and on about things and makes ME bonkers! And now – back to the book!

(SIGNORA PIZZICATO enters full of enthusiasm.)

PIZZICATO: (Musically) Aaah – aaah – your Majestee –

KING: (Angrily) What do YOU want? What now?

PIZZICATO: Aah- how fortunate zat I should you find – when I have everywhere been for you looking. Ze report. Ze report about the royal children's museek lessons.

KING: Go away. Can't you see I'm busy?

PIZZICATO: But your Majestee – did not you zay zat I to you vas to report about zee progress by zee royal children made?

KING: Yes – but not now, Pizzicato. Not now. Go!

PIZZICATO: As your Majestee vishes - but I think eet ees now zee time for Prince Peter to start zee learning of to play zee violin.

KING: Oh, fiddlesticks!

PIZZICATO: Ah, yes, he vill need zee fiddlestick! But I prefer to call eet zee violin, not zee fiddle.

KING: Oh – oh – Hey fold de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

PIZZICATO: I vas theenking about zee waltz – oh dear – oh dear – (She waltzes around singing a waltz tune. Exits singing and dancing)

KING: Oh – these musical types – always going on about something. Now, maybe I can get on with the book!

(GENERAL BANG BANG, SERGEANT BOOM, SERGEANT BING and SERGEANT BEEP enter.)

GENERAL: (As he enters) What on earth is the matter with Pizzicato? I just passed her waltzing down the path and singing away. Thinks too much about music. Must have gone off her head.

SERGEANT BOOM: I thought it was nice.

SERGEANT BING: You would. You're always singing away too!

SERGEANT BEEP: She's a strange creature, I tell you. She must have gone off her head.

KING: (Puts his head in his hands) Oh no!

GENERAL: What's the matter, your Majesty? Has somebody else gone off their head?

KING: No – but I will and very soon too if people don't leave me alone.

GENERAL: Oh – sorry, your Majesty. Very sorry, but I thought that we must inform you about this new cannon. It has just been invented and it – well it changes everything.



SERGEANT BOOM: It's an amazing cannon, your Majesty!

SERGEANT BING: It's an invention that will blow your mind!

SERGEANT BEEP: It's a mind-blowing invention!

KING: I'll give you something mind-blowing!

GENERAL: Oh? Have you invented something, too?

KING: No, and I'm not interested in the cannon.

GENERAL: I beg of you, your Majesty.

KING: Not interested. Go away!

GENERAL: Oh – so sorry, your Majesty, but with this new cannon we could repel any invading army.

SERGEANT BOOM: It would be amazing.

SERGEANT BING: It would be outstanding.

SERGEANT BEEP: It would be mind-blowing.

KING: General, Sergeant Boom, Bing and Beep! WE are not being invaded!

GENERAL: Ah – but we might be – at any time too. Invading armies don't give any warning you know.

BOOM, BING, BEEP: They just right up and invade!

KING: General Bang Bang – all I want is a little peace and quiet – QUIET!

GENERAL: Ah, well now, that's just the point, your Majesty. With this new cannon, we would be assured of peace.

KING: Oh – botheration. Here goes. Hey fol de rol –

GENERAL: Your Majesty – this is no time for flippancy.

SERGEANT BOOM: Your Majesty – please listen to General Bang Bang!

SERGEANT BING: You never do!

SERGEANT BEEP: It's mind-blowing!

KING: Here's something mind-blowing! Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

GENERAL: Why, I've been thinking of nothing else but the new cannon ever since – oh bonkers – Boom – Boom – Boom!

SERGEANT BOOM: I'm right here, General. I've been thinking about the cannon too! Boom! Boom! Boom!

SERGEANT BING: The cannon is all I can think about! Boom! Boom! Boom!

SERGEANT BEEP: It's mind-blowing! Boom! Boom! Boom! (The General and Sergeants jump up and down booming like a cannon. The Sergeants bump into each other. They exit)

KING: Maybe now I can get some peace. To be safe, I'd better go find some place less noticeable! (King exits)

BLACKOUT

**SCENE TWO – [A hallway in the palace. A chair is CS.]**

NARRATOR 1: King Nikolas is certainly stirring up his kingdom.

NARRATOR 2: I've never seen anything like it before.

NARRATOR 1: Neither have I!

NARRATOR 2: Our next scene takes place in a secluded hallway where the King doesn't think anyone will find him.

NARRATOR 1: But I think he could be wrong about that.

NARRATOR 2: (To audience) Would you like to see what happens? (Wait for response)

NARRATORS: Here we go! (They exit)

(King enters cautiously and spots a chair and crosses to it. He sits down and opens the book and starts to read.)

KING: Page seventeen – how to turn a prince into a frog – mm – mm – it's been done before. (Turns page) How to make a beautiful woman sleep for one hundred years – mm – that's been done before too. How to turn a pumpkin into a coach without the help of a fairy godmother – well that's a bit different. How to make a magic lamp, complete with a genie. Magic carpets – flying horses –

(ROSIE enters.)

ROSIE: Your Majesty! Your Majesty!

KING: What now!

ROSIE: I can't find Princess Irena!

KING: (Rises from chair) Rosie, what do you mean you can't find her?

ROSIE: I can't find her! I've looked everywhere, and I know as her handmaiden I should know where she is, but I just can't find her! I'm worried beyond belief, and it is making me very anxious that something has happened to her, you know like the time she was -

KING: Have you looked over there? (Points to the left)

ROSIE: Uh-huh!

KING: Have you looked over there? (Points to the right)

ROSIE: Uh-huh!

KING: Have you looked in the garden?

ROSIE: Oh, no! I haven't looked there! Thank you, your Majesty! (Exits USL)

KING: Well, that was easy. (He's about to sit again but Rosie runs back onstage)

ROSIE: She wasn't there!

KING: Well, she is not in here! Go away!

ROSIE: Help me look for her!

KING: NO, I'm busy.

ROSIE: (Poking the King) Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help!

✓KING: Stop that!

ROSIE: Help! (Pokes him one more time)

KING: Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

ROSIE: Oh, dear! I was thinking of all the beautiful flowers in the garden. The flowers... (She dances around like a flower and makes sounds as if she is a flower. She exits.)

KING: (Laughing) Now back to the book! How to turn –

(The ARCHBISHOP enters.)

ARCHBISHOP: Your Majesty – what a peaceful, happy day it is. As peaceful as a benediction.

KING: No, it isn't, Archbishop, I wish it was.

ARCHBISHOP: Oh, dear, dear, dear, we are not very pleased today, I can see.

KING: I came here to be quiet and undisturbed Archbishop, and I've had nothing but interruptions.

ARCHBISHOP: That's because your Majesty is so important. And now I am interrupting too. I see you're reading a book! Interesting?

KING: Oh, very.

ARCHBISHOP: Perhaps you'll lend it to me when you've finished it!

KING: No, I don't think so, Archbishop.

ARCHBISHOP: Well, anyway, your Majesty enough about your book. I've been wanting to talk to you for days. It's about the bells – the cathedral bells. I really think we ought to have some new ones.

KING: Take it up with the Prime Minister. He takes care of the money.

ARCHBISHOP: Oh, I couldn't do that. I can't ever get a word in with Sir Ramblesonalot. I really think that this is the right moment to speak to you.

KING: Well, I don't – Hey fol de rol –

ARCHBISHOP: I beg your pardon, your Majesty.

KING: Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

ARCHBISHOP: Why, my first and last thought for days now has been the bells. Oh, oh, oh dear – the bells. Bong! Bong! Bong! Bong! (He circles the stage making bell sounds and exits.)

KING: (Laughing hysterically) He really is an old nuisance, but it's hard to be rude to him. Poor old Arch! And now, (rubs hands together) back to the book! (exits offstage)

## BLACKOUT

### SCENE THREE – [The Dining Room. A Table is CS.]

NARRATOR 1: Poor, poor King Nikolas.

NARRATOR 2: He is trying his best to read the Book of Spells. He seems to be getting a little agitated.

NARRATOR 1: But that one spell seems to be doing well for him so far. Here he comes now into the dining room of the great castle.

NARRATOR 2: (To audience) Do you think King Nikolas will able finish the book? (Wait for response from audience.) Me either!

(KING enters and sits at a table. MRS. and MR. DIFFICULT enter.)

MRS. DIFFICULT: (Has a pig on a dish and places it down on the table. She wipes sweat from her brow) Woo-wee! That pig right there took me twenty hours to cook. And it wasn't easy neither.

KING: Thank you, Mrs. Difficult. But I'm not hungry right now. I'm currently read-

MR. DIFFICULT: Not hungry? Are my ears deceiving me? My wife took twenty hours of her life to cook this pig right here just for you, and you're not hungry.

KING: I didn't mean it like that, Mr. Difficult. It's just –

MRS. DIFFICULT: I knew the King didn't like me! Or my cooking! (starts to cry)

MR. DIFFICULT: Look what you've done, your Majesty! Now my wife is crying over a pig on a dish on a table that was cooked for twenty hours, and you can't even say sorry?

MRS. DIFFICULT: Why don't you love me or my cooking, my Majesty.

MR. DIFFICULT: That's it! With all due respect, your Majesty, if you don't want to eat, then I'll have my daughters eat the whole thing! (yells to offstage) Daughters! Get in here now!

KING: Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

MR.& MRS. DIFFICULT: I was thinking about the pig. (They both start to squeal like pigs and run around the stage chasing each other offstage with pig.)

(IZZY, TIZZY, BIZZY, LIZZY enter.)

IZZY: Papa! Your favorite daughter has arrived!

TIZZY: So has Tizzy, Papa! Oh, dear, I'm so nervous today.

LIZZY: (Smacking gum) Tizzy, you're always nervous. Where's Papa? And Izzy, I'm his favorite daughter, and I was actually here first.

IZZY: No, you weren't Lizzy.

LIZZY: Yes, I was Izzy.

TIZZY: (Playing with her hands in a nervous manner) Oh, dear I wish you two wouldn't argue. It makes me even more nervous.

BIZZY: Don't get in such a tizzy, Tizzy.

LIZZY: Well, look who's graced us with her presence. You're never around, Bizzy.

IZZY: (Very bratty) You're always so busy, Bizzy!

BIZZY: Sorry, I've been engaged in meetings and appointments all day. I'm a busy gal!

TIZZY: Where is Dizzy?

DIZZY: (Stumbling in) Whoa, I'm right here. I'm just a little dizzier today than normal. Whoa!

KING: (Sneaks up from behind them) Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

DIZZY: (Stops stumbling) I was thinking about Izzy. Look at me, I'm not stumbling no more! I got to tell Papa! (exits)

IZZY: I was thinking about Bizzy. I just remembered I have two appointments at the same time! (Exits)

TIZZY: (Smacking gum) I was thinking about Lizzy. I got to tell Papa how wonderful I am now. (exits)

BIZZY: I was thinking about Tizzy. Oh...now I'm really nervous! I can't stay here. Goodbye sisters. (She runs offstage)

LIZZIE: I was thinking about Dizzy. Whoa, whoa, whoaaa! (stumbles offstage)

KING: (looks both directions. Is relieved and sits at the table) I think they're all gone. Finally...I can relax and start learning some new spells.

(Screaming is heard offstage. LORDS, LADIES of the Court enter. Followed by DUKE and DUCHESS TINKER)

LADIES: There are mice in the kitchen! Yuck!

LORDS: Oh no! Mice! Terrible!

DUCHESS TINKER: Don't worry Lords and Ladies of the Court.

DUKE TINKER: You can let Duke and Duchess Tinker handle the situation.

LORDS/LADIES: What will you do?

DUCHESS TINKER: We have the perfect plan.

DUKE TINKER: We will release the cats inside the kitchen!

KING: (Yells from behind them) Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

LORDS/LADIES: Mice! (They crouch down and become like mice)

DUKE and DUCHESS TINKER: Cats! Meow! (They chase the mice offstage)

KING: I wish for 10 seconds of silence so I can finish at least one page of this Book of Spells. (Looks both directions, then continues to read the book)

(JESTER enters.)

JESTER: (Mimes like he is opening a door. Shushes the audience. Acts like he has a lasso and throws it over the King. He then “tugs and climbs” the rope until he gets next to the King, who is still buried in the book. He taps the King’s shoulder.)

KING: (Shocked) I didn’t even hear you, Court Jester!

JESTER: (Shrugs his shoulders. Puts his hands to his heart and has puppy eyes to indicate “I’m very sorry, my King”)

KING: Please, no jokes right now! Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

JESTER: (Acting like the King. Holds his hands like a book and acts like he is reading it. He points his finger angrily at the King and does whatever gesture the King does when he says the magical line. He continues this until he is offstage.)

BARON SNAZZY: (Enters) King Nikolas! I’m so glad to see you. But what is this drab attire?

KING: Baron Von Snazzy, I don’t have time to think about my clothing. Well actually, could you dress me up to look like a wizard?

BARON SNAZZY: A wizard? (scoffs) Where are we, the Middle Ages? I don’t think so! Wizards are sooo last century. We want something modern. You should look like a lion. A beautiful and majestic creature that rules over the land but will also assert his dominance!

KING: This is going nowhere. Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be the last thing you thought of.

BARON SNAZZY: A fierce lion! (Messes up his hair to form a mane. Roars and walks offstage like a runway model.)

KING: (Pacing back and forth) If I get anymore interruptions, I shall go mad! I can’t stay here another minute. Where can I go that I can’t be found? I know! I’ll go sit on my throne. At least it’s quiet in the throne room and nobody will bother me there.

BLACKOUT

**SCENE FOUR – [The throne room. The throne is CSL.]**

NARRATOR 1: We are now in the King’s throne room. It doesn’t look like much, but a lot can happen here.

NARRATOR 2: A lot has already happened!

NARRATOR 1: It certainly has. I do think it’s a bit comical what is happening to all of the people in the kingdom, but King Nikolas doesn’t know the power of that book...

NARRATOR 2: or who it belongs to. But we do, (turns to Narrator 1) don't we?

NARRATOR 1: We do and wait until that certain someone finds out what's been going on.

NARRATOR 2: I don't think that that certain someone will be very happy!

NARRATOR 1: Me either.

NARRATOR 2: We'll have to wait and find out.

NARRATOR 1: (To audience) Are you ready to find out? (Wait for response)

NARRATOR 2: Good! On with the story. (They exit.)

(King peeps cautiously into the room. He enters and tiptoes across to the throne and sits.)

KING: Aah, this is better. Now perhaps I'll really study The Book of Spells. Nobody will think of looking for me here. (He opens the book.) Page one hundred and one. How to turn a handsome young man, preferably a prince, into a snow-white unicorn. Sounds rather interesting. I'd like to do something spectacular like that. First get the handsome young man. Make a net of spider's webs gathered while the morning dew is still upon them. Collect seven locks of hair from the heads of seven golden-haired princesses – sounds very complicated. I wonder if it really works!

(The Queen enters. She flaps around the throne waving her arms like wings.)

QUEEN: Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluuuuuuuck!

KING: Oh, go away, you stupid old hen.

QUEEN: (Angrily) Cluck! Cluck! Cluuuuuuuuuuuck!

KING: Of course, you're not a silly old hen. You're the Queen, aren't you!

QUEEN: (Agreeingly) Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! (She continues to flap around as Prince Peter enters. He runs in like a puppy and leaps up to the King.)

PRINCE: Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

KING: Go away. I want to be quiet.

PRINCE: (He puts his hands up to the King's lap and knocks the book from the King's hands.)

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

KING: (Picking up the book) Now look what you've done you stupid little dog – er – I mean boy.

(Prince continues to bark as Princess Irena enters.)

PRINCESS: (She runs around the stage.) Tweet! Tweet! Tweet! Tweeeeeeeeeet!

KING: Go away. Can't you see I'm busy? And stop that infernal tweeting! (Princess continues to tweet as The General, Sergeants and Pizzicato enter.)

GENERAL and SERGEANTS: BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

PIZZICATO: (Waltzing around singing.)

KING: Oh, this is awful! How can I read with all this noise? How can I do anything? Stop it! Stop it!

SIR RAMBLESONALOT: Ribbit, ribbit! (Hopping on stage)

KNIGHTS: (Galloping on stage) Neighhhhhh!!!! Stop right there, frog!

KING: Please! Everyone stop. STOP! (Nobody stops as the Maid enters.)

MAID: BAAA! BAAA! BAAA! (She continues as Rosie enters dancing around like a flower and making her flower sounds.)

KING: Stop, oh, please stop! (He frantically turns the pages of the book.) I must find out how to break the spell. Yes, that's it. Find out how to break the spell. Oh dear – I can't find it! It isn't in the book! (He continues to look as The Archbishop enters.)

ARCHBISHOP: BONG! BONG! BONG!

KING: (Still turning pages of the book.) Oh dear, oh dear! What shall I do? Stop everyone! STOP! I, your King, command you to stop. Hey fol de rol and hi diddle de ho – be as you were before. (No one takes the slightest notice and the noise increases.) Oh, dear, whatever shall I do! (Madams enter.)

KING: (Rushing over to Crepe.) Oh, dear Madam Crepe, I'm so glad to see you. Whatever shall I do? You've always been so sensible. Please help me now.

CREPE: (Taking no notice of the King, walking round the stage.) Shake, shake, shake! Shake, shake, shake, shake, shake! Shake, shake, shake!

KING: (Runs to Croissant) Madam Croissant! Please help! What advice can you give me?

CROISSANT: Meuhhh! (Moves like a snail around the stage. Crepe notices her and follows her)

(MRS. DIFFICULT and MR. DIFFICULT enter making pig noises at each other.)

(IZZY, TIZZY, LIZZY, BIZZY and DIZZY enter and talk to each other in loud voices.)

(LORDS/LADIES and DUKE and DUCHESS enter as mice and cats chasing each other.)

(JESTER enters with BARON VON SNAZZY. Jester mimes the King and Baron roars like a lion.)

KING: (Holds his hands over his ears.) Oh, please, please stop! Won't anybody help me?

(Suddenly, there is a loud bang and a blackout for a few seconds. When the lights come up, Zozo is center stage.)

ZOZO: STOP! BE SILENT! (All the characters under the spell freeze and stand like statues and the noises cease. She addresses the King.) My book, I think. (Zozo holds out her hand for the book.)

KING: Oh, are you a wizard? Because if you are, please, please put everything back to what it was.

ZOZO: Yes, I am a wizard. Actually, I am a Wizardess and my name is Zozo. So, you want everything as it was before, do you?

KING: Oh, yes, please, Miss Zozo. Please!

ZOZO: That might not be so easy. You certainly have everyone confused.

KING: Well, I was only trying to have a little fun. Being a king is so dull. (He stands.)

ZOZO: You ought to have sense enough to mind your own affairs. Don't know what this world is coming to when adults can't even do what they're supposed to do.

KING: I'll never do it again, I promise. If you put things back I'll do anything you say.

ZOZO: Are you quite sure? Really quite sure?

KING: Oh, yes, I'm absolutely, positively certain.

ZOZO: Then, if you are quite sure, I will put everything right again for you. (Zozo turns her back to the audience and the King. She then makes a sign with her hands.)

QUEEN: (Coming to life again.) Ah, that's better. Much better. I felt most peculiar. I thought I was - but really – how could I have been. So silly of me.

PRINCE: (Shaking himself like a dog.) That's very funny. I thought I was a dog a minute ago.

PRINCESS: And I thought I was my pet canary. It was wonderful but very strange.

GENERAL: I've been thinking so much about that infernal new cannon, I imagined I was one.

SERGEANTS: So did we!

GENERAL: It's ridiculous, of course, and most confusing. Dear me, I must be getting old.

SERGEANTS BOOM: It's ridiculous!

SERGEANT BING: You mean General Bang Bang getting old?

SERGEANT BEEP: (Hits Bing on the head) That's not what he meant.

GENERAL: Sergeants, enough. Please excuse us, your Majesty. (They exit.)

PIZZICATO: Oh dear – I most humbly do your pardon beg, your Majesty – er – your Majesties – and our highnesses too – pardon me – I too much have been thinking about zee music. Imagine I cannot how I came to be here. Excuse, please – excuse please. (She exits.)

MAID: Oh my, what was going on? It was frightening. I must find my lamb. (She exits.)

CROISSANT: Oh, dear, time to make dinner. Would you like some escargot? Now that rings a bell – oh dear me – dear me – I'm getting as bad as Pizzicato.

CREPE: That's because you didn't mention the salt – dear me – I seem to have said that before. How peculiar. Forgive me your Majesty, but don't you think it's time for dinner.

KING: I think it's time you left us, Madame Crepe. Madame Croissant. I wish to be left in peace for a short time.

MADAMS: So sorry, your Majesty. Excuse us. (They exit.)

DUKE TINKER: Your majesty, we were acting like cats!

DUCHESS TINKER: What happened?

DUCHESS/DUKE: So strange!

LORDS/LADIES: We were acting like mice! Very strange!

DUKE/DUCHESS/LORDS/LADIES: Please excuse us! (They bow and exit.)

MR. DIFFICULT: Oh, dear! I thought I was a pig just a moment ago. (Sees his daughters) My daughters! Where have you been?

MRS. DIFFICULT: I thought I was a pig too! Daughters we called for you ages ago! Where were you and why doesn't anyone want to listen to little old Mrs. Difficult?

TIZZY: So, so, so, so, sorry. Please forgive me mother. Please forgive me father. I thought I was Lizzy for a moment!

BIZZY: I thought I was you, Tizzy! I must go! I'm very busy and I have an appointment that started five minutes ago.

LIZZY: And I thought I was Dizzy! I'm so glad that's over!

DIZZY: That's not – whoa! (She stumbles around) That's not nice! I was acting like Izzy. Whoa!

IZZY: I was acting like Bizzy. That was craaaaazzzzzzzy! Your majesty. (They bow to the King)

MR. and MRS. DIFFICULT: Your majesty. (They bow to the King and exit with daughters)

BARON: Roaring like a lion? I do not know what came over me? However, I just had an idea for a new cape for you, your majesty. It'll be silky fabric with gold frills on the ends. I'll attend to it right away! (Exits)

SIR RAMBLESONALOT: I am so glad I'm not a frog anymore. I couldn't help but keep ribbiting as I was running away from these Knights.

KNIGHT NEWY: Yeah, now we don't have to arrest you.

KNIGHT NEWTON: We will escort you back to your chambers, Sir Ramblesonalot. (They exit)

JESTER: (Swipes sweat off his brow. Bows to the King. He lassos somewhere offstage. He then "tugs and climbs" the rope until he is offstage.)



ROSIE: Oh, my goodness! What's been going on? I imagined I was one of the beautiful flowers in the garden. Oh, Princess! There you are! Do you need me right now?

PRINCESS: No, thank you Rosie.

ROSIE: Okie dokie! (Skips offstage.)

PRINCE: What has been happening, Dad?

PRINCESS: Yes, everybody is acting so strangely.

QUEEN: Now, run along children. Off you go.

PRINCESS: There you go again. But I want to stay.

PRINCE: We both want to stay. Who is that funny little person?

QUEEN: PETER! Don't be so rude! Now, off you go, both of you.

PETER: Oh, but –

KING: Peter – Irena – do as you're told.

PRINCE and PRINCESS: Yes, Dad, but please –

ZOZO: (Addresses the King) This time let them stay. They have a lesson to learn too. Being a wizard isn't all fun, you know.

KING: Oh, how right you are. I realize that now. And thank you for putting everything right again.

ZOZO: Oh, don't mention it. Nothing to it really – if you're a wizard, of course. But I think you'd better stick to being a king, don't you?

KING: Oh yes, I will, I will. You're so right.

QUEEN: And I'll see that he does, too.

ZOZO: Everyone must promise to be what they are, or things could have gotten worse!

QUEEN: I could have gone on clucking all my life.

PRINCE and PRINCESS: That would have been wild! (Laugh as they exit.)

KING: (Hands book to Zozo) How'd you get them all back to normal. It doesn't tell you in the book, does it?

ZOZO: (Putting the book under her arm) Ah – you have to be a real magician to know that. (She makes her magic sign. Blackout. Lights come up and she's disappeared.)

KING: Oh – She's gone!

QUEEN: And a good thing, too.

KING: Oh, but I really would like to know how she did it. Perhaps I could find her and take lessons.

QUEEN: Nikolas – what did Zozo say about you keeping to your own job?

KING: I was only wondering, dear.

QUEEN: Well, don't – and come along. Dinner is almost ready.

KING: Yes, dear. (They exit.)