



MOTHER HUBBARD AND THE HAUNTED CASTLE

by Elaine Elliott

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MOTHER HUBBARD AND THE HAUNTED CASTLE

A Pantomime
By
Elaine Elliott

CHARACTERS

The Witch of Shadows.

Mother Hubbard - typical pantomime dame.

Boxer – Mother Hubbard’s dog.

Simple Simon – Mother Hubbard’s silly son.

Florizel – Mother Hubbard’s sensible son.

Villagers - any number – could include:

Little Bo Peep

Miss Muffet

Red Riding Hood

Little Boy Blue

Grabbit – a robber

Run – another robber

Princess Primrose – daughter of the King and Queen of Hearts

The King of Hearts - forgetful and absent minded.

The Queen of Hearts - bossy and organised.

Town Crier (or voice off stage)

Farmer Giles - typical country bumpkin

The Ghost - harmless and lonely

Demons – Assistants to the witch. Any number. Can double as villagers.

Songs

Traditional music hall and variety songs but other songs can be used.

1. Let's All be Happy Together - Howard Thomas and Roy Leslie
2. It's Nice to get Up in the Morning - Harry Lauder
3. Any Dirty Work Today? - R.P. Weston and Bert Lee
4. Why Do the Men Run After Me? - T.W.Connor
5. The First Time I Saw You - Allie Wrubel and Nathaniel Shilkret
6. Farmer Giles - Gilbert Wells and T.F.Robson
7. The Ghost of Benjamin Binns - Harry Dacre, Harry Randall, William Spalding
8. Oh Sarah! Oh 'Eneery! - Henry Longstaffe
9. What do You say when you meet a Ghost
(to the tune of Little Sir Echo.) - John Sylvester Fearis
10. Goosey, Goosey. - Wright Butler and Raymond Wallace

SCENES:

Act 1.

1. The Village Green
2. An area in the witch's castle
3. The road to the village.
4. The Village Green
5. On the way to the Forest of Nightmares
6. In the Demon's Dell

Act 2.

1. In the Witch's castle
2. The Village Green.

MOTHER HUBBARD and the HAUNTED CASTLE

Act 1.

Scene 1 - The Village Green

Various village characters, which could include Little Red Riding Hood, Little Boy Blue, Little Bo Peep, Miss Muffet enter and sing:

Song 1. - Let's all Be Happy Together.

All: Let's all be happy together, 'cos you can't be happy by yourself.
Let's find some jolly companions and drink their jolly good health.
Being all alone is folly, only makes you melancholy'
So, let's all be happy together, 'cos you can't be happy by yourself.

Solo' In any kind of weather, if we stick together,
Nothing ever can go wrong.
We forget our troubles; they blow away like bubbles
If we sing this happy song.

All: Let's all be happy together.....

*(At end of song, there is a flash of lightning, thunder etc. and they all exit.
The witch appears at a section of the acting area representing part of her castle.)*

Scene 2. – The Witch's Castle

Witch: It is nearly time. My years of work will soon be rewarded and I will achieve my heart's desire. I, the Witch of shadows, shall become, ruler of the world.
For six hundred years have I waited for this moment, biding my time in this dark, forgotten castle, hidden deep in the Forest of Nightmares.
For six hundred years have I paced the dark corridors, planning and plotting my evil deeds.
For six hundred years I have toiled over my cauldron, preparing all manner of sinister spells.
And now, at last, I am ready. My life's work is complete. I have found the secret of the most powerful spell of all, one that will enable me to cast out all goodness from the world and spread only hate, wickedness and cruelty.
The world will be filled with misery and I shall be queen of it all.
(Thunder etc..)
Let me see what ingredients I shall need for my spell.
(Consults spell book)
1 bag of currants

8 broken snails
3 squashed worms, dipped in jam.
2 bags of slugs,
1 jar of pickled frogs.
1 bag of nails – human.
The heart of a princess, a packet of sugar and a bottle of milk.
What! The heart of a princess! The other ingredients are easy to get
but where am I to find the heart of a princess?
Hmmm. Let me think. In the village beyond the Forest of Nightmares,
live the King and Queen of Hearts and their daughter, The Princess
Primrose. She would be just the person to help me with my spell, if
only I could lure her to my castle.
I cannot risk being seen in the village so what I need is somebody to
capture the princess and bring her to me.
Let me see if I can find a criminal or two to carry out the deed.
The princess shall be mine and I shall rule the whole world!

(Thunder. Etc. Witch exits)

Scene 3. - On the road to the village.

(Grabbit and Run enter doing comedy walk to music. They creep round stage, looking anxiously about. Eventually bump into each other)

Grabbit: Ssshh.

Run: It's all right, Grabbit. We've lost them.

Grabbit: Good, Let's have a look at the swag.

(They open sack and take out obviously stolen items like candlesticks, silver plates, Mona Lisa etc..)

Run: Coo, like at the shine on this.

Grabbit: This one should fetch a bob or two.

Run: When shall we sell 'em?

Grabbit: Not yet, not yet. Plenty of time. We'll have to lie low for a while. The peelers will be swarming everywhere looking for this stuff.

Run: Potato peelers?

Grabbit: No. Peelers, police, see?

Run: Where are we going to hide, then?

Grabbit: Don't worry. There's a nice little village down the road where no one knows us. We can hang out there for a bit.

Run: Good idea, Grabbit.

Grabbit: Pick up the stuff then and let's get going.

(They exit doing comedy, suspicious walk in time to music.)

SCENE 4 – The Village Green

(Simple Simon, Florizel and villagers - Red Riding Hood, Little Bo Peep, Miss Muffet, Little Boy Blue)

Song. 1. Reprise Song no. 1.

All: Let's all be happy together 'cos you can't be happy by yourself, Let's find some jolly companions and drink to jolly good health.
Being all alone is folly, only makes you melancholy, so let's all be happy together, 'cos you can't be happy by yourself.

Enter Boxer the dog. Jumps up at everybody then hides. Enter M. Hubbard.

M. Hubb Boxer, Boxer, come back here you naughty dog. Come here at once.
Oh, Hello everybody.

All: Hello Mother Hubbard.

M. Hubb: I've lost my naughty dog again, have any of you seen him?

B. Blue: What does he look like?

M. Hubb: Well let me think. He's small.

Miss Muf: What very small?

M. Hubb: No no, not very small, no he's not really small at all. I suppose you really ought to call him big.

S. Sim: Big, big, come here big.

M. Hubb: What are you doing now?

S. Sim: I'm calling him big but he's not answering.

M. Hubb: Of course he's not answering, you silly boy, call him by his name.
Boxer, Boxer, I know he must be hiding from me. I wonder if he's over here. *(Looks)*

All: You're getting warmer. *(etc)*

M. Hubb: It's no good I give up. I know, dinnertime Boxer. Come and get your dinner.

(Boxer comes out wagging tail)

That's right you little rascal, now come along, we're going for a walk.

RR Hood: Aren't you going to give him his dinner?

M. Hub: Ah.....Yes.

Miss Muf: Go on then.

M. Hub: yes...Alright.

RR Hood: What are you waiting for?

M. Hub: Well, to tell you the truth, I haven't got anything for his dinner.

All: What? *(Dog whimpers)*

M. Hub: No, there's nothing for my doggie's dinner and nothing for my dinner, and nothing for my two boys dinner, Simple Simon and Florizel, there's nothing left at all.

Flor: But isn't there anything in the cupboard?

M. Hubb: No, I went to the cupboard to get my doggie a bone and guess what.

All: What?

M. Hubb: The cupboard was bare.

All: No.

M. Hubb: Yes. Not a bone in the place. Nothing at all.

Bo. Peep: Oh, poor Boxer.

M. Hubb: Poor Boxer! What about me and my two little boys?

S. Simon: What are we going to do ma?

M. Hubb: Things are so bad that I'm afraid we'll just have to start working to earn some money.

S. Sim: Oh yes, I'll start right away.

M. Hub: You? What could you do Simple Simon? You're far too silly to get a job. And you're brother's not much better. He's always mooning about writing poetry and dreaming, I don't know what's wrong with him.

M. Muff: I do. He's in love that's what it is.

Boy B: He's dreaming of his sweetheart.

Flor: Oh, leave me alone.

Miss.Muf: It's true, though isn't it? You are in love.

Flor: Yes, it's true, I'm in love with the most wonderful girl in the world.

M. Hub: Oh really?

Flor: She's as beautiful as the morning and as kind as an angel. She sings like a nightingale and dances like a fairy. Her smile is like the sunshine, and of course she's very rich and I love her dearly.

M. Hub: What did you say?

Flor: I love her dearly.

M. Hub: No no, before that.

Flor: She's very rich.

M. Hub: Ah that's what I thought you said. Well, Florizel I really think you ought to go ahead and marry her if she's as rich..er..and as beautiful and kind as you say.

Flor: It's no good, she'd never marry me. She's far too wonderful, I wouldn't dare to ask her.

B.Peep: I know who it is. It's the princess isn't it? Princess Primrose.

Flor: Yes. I love Princess Primrose and of course she could never love me. I'm just an ordinary person and she deserves to marry a prince.

M.Hub: Oh. That is a pity. Well, come along, we'll have to think of some way of earning some money. I've decided to take in washing. I've heard it pays very well, and the King and Queen themselves have promised to give me their washing to do.

Simon: I'll help you ma.

RR Hood: I'll help too.

All: Yes, we'll all help.

M. Hub: Oh that is kind of you I'm sure. But you'll have to be up very early to get the washing on the line.

All: Oh that's alright.

M.Hub: How about you, Boy Blue?

B. Blue: I don't mind getting up early.

M.Hub: Well I do, so you can wake me up when you've finished.

B. Blue: Oh no, you'll have to get up too.

Bo. Peep: It's lovely to be up early.

M. Hub: Yes, you're quite right of course. I don't hold with these lazy folk who lie in bed half the day.

Song. No.2 It's Nice to Get Up in the Morning

M. Hub: Oh, you'll never never never thrive lying in your bed,
Early rising makes us wise I've often heard it said.
I believe in that myself but as far as I can see, if early rising makes
us wise you'll say the same as me.

All: Oh, it's nice to get up in the morning when the sun begins to shine,
At four or five or six o'clock in the good old summer time.
When the snow is snowing and it's murky overhead,
Oh, it's nice to get up in the morning,

M. Hub: But it's nicer to lie in bed.

All: Yes it's nice to get up in the morning, but it's nicer to lie in bed.

(Fanfare of trumpets)

Town Crier: Oh yea, oh yea, oh yea, make way for the King and Queen of
Hearts.

All: Hooray!

*(King and Queen enter with Princess Primrose. The King waves to
acknowledge the cheering)*

King: Thank you, thank you, loyal subjects, thank you, my people, thank
you.

Queen: Alright Herbert that will do.

King: Yes dear. *(Loudly)* I wish to speak to all my people.

Crier: Oh yea, oh yea, oh yea, pray silence for his majesty the king.

King: My people, tomorrow is a very important day. Tomorrow the
er...twenty third..er tenth..er..

Queen: Fifteenth

King: Yes, yes, the fifteenth of ..er..

Queen: June

King: June, is the birthday of my daughter, the princess..er..

Queen: Primrose

King: Yes, yes I know, and she will be exactly, let me see now, exactly

Queen: Sixteen

King: And to celebrate this happy occasion, I have decided, or rather, the
queen and I have decided, that is to say, her majesty suggested to
me.....

Queen: To celebrate the birthday of Princess Primrose there will be a grand
party at the palace to which everyone is invited.

All: Hooray!

King: And the guest of honour, of course, will be our own little girl the
Princess..er..

All: Primrose.

King: Yes, yes, yes.

B. Blue: Long live Princess Primrose.

All: Hooray!

King: And that brings me to another matter, which is the er...

Queen: Witch.

King: What?

Queen: Witch.

King: Which what?

Queen: Not what. Just witch.

King: Not what? Not what what?

Queen: The what which you said.

King: What which?

Queen: The witch that lives in the forest.

King: Ah, that witch. Yes, of course. As you all know, I'm sure you must all know, In the dark forest of nightmares beyond our village, there is a castle, a very grim, forbidding place, very dark and gloomy, very...
(*Queen nudges him*)
And in that castle there lives the witch of shadows.

All: Ooh.

King: The witch rules over the castle and the forest and all the woodland glades and ...and...and now we hear she wants to rule the whole land. Even the whole world.

All: Ooh.

King: And so, my people, we must get rid of the witch.

All: Hear, hear.

B. Blue: Kill the witch, I say.

All: Yes, kill the witch, kill the witch.

King: Yes, but which one of you is going to do it?

Queen: What about you dear?

King: Me? Well I... of course I can't

Queen: Why not?

King: I'm far too busy. Besides I've lost my sword.

B. Blue: You can use this one, sir.

King: Well, unfortunately I've just remembered some important..er..business I must do..yes..that's right I have to go for a fitting for my new crown.

Queen: Well what are we wasting time here for? Come along, Primrose.

King: And remember, if any of you do kill the witch they'll be a big reward for you.

Crier: Oh yea, oh yea, oh yea, make way for the king and queen of hearts.
(*They exit*)

RR Hood: I wonder what the reward will be.

Bo Peep: Couldn't you kill the witch Boy Blue?

B. Blue: Not me, I'm far too busy.(*Exit*)

Bo Peep: What cowards. Mind you I wouldn't go through that forest either.