

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

A Musical Pantomime

by

MARK & BRYAN ELLIS

Music by

GRANT GORDON

SchoolPlay Productions Ltd

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
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CAST

Baron Beastly		<i>A villain</i>
Alderman Riding Hood		<i>A mayor</i>
Mrs. Hood		<i>His wife</i>
Red	}	
	}	
Yellow	}	
	}	
Green	}	<i>Their daughters</i>
	}	
Blue	}	
	}	
Basil		<i>The Baron's steward</i>
The Baron's guards		
Lupe		<i>A wolf</i>
Grandma Hood		<i>The Alderman's mother</i>

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ACT I (*Prologue*)

(Lights up to a dim glow on a blank stage. BARON BEASTLY strides on and stands glaring at the Audience).

Baron: *(With menace).* Sit down, and listen to me.

I am Baron Beastly
The Lord of Nightmare Hall:
I own the local village
And the villagers - I own them all.

The people of this neighbourhood
Do what I tell them to,
And when they don't -well, let's just say
They end up black and blue!

It's never said that I am good:
I'm proud that I'm not fair.
And if the people hate me - well,
The truth is I don't care.

(Sneering) You've met me at a special time,
A milestone in my life,
I've found there's something I don't own -
I'm looking for a wife.

(Descending from the stage)
But now I look around me
I could have one of you.
I don't see many pretty ones,
Not many that would do.

Still, riding through the village,
The last time I was there,
I saw an eligible girl
A daughter of the Mayor.

I've not exactly asked her yet
If she will be my bride:
I'm not much into asking -
It's me who will decide.

So watch on if you want to,
See Baron Beastly play,
But don't forget - this is my town,
And do just as I say!

I'm sure you'll come to love me:
I can always make you cheer.
But, just for now, you'll suit me fine
Trembling with fear.

(He exits through the Audience, laughing maniacally).

SCENE 1 The Town Hall.

(Curtains open on the CHORUS - the whole CAST apart from the BARON).

MUSIC 1 - THE RIDING HOODS

Alderman } *We are a happy family - our name is Hood*
& Mrs. Hood } *We're loving and we're caring and we're really good.*
& their } *When wicked people thwart us*
daughters: } *We hope that you'll support us*
And give us the applause that an audience should.

Others: } *The rest of us are characters you'll get to know,*
(Basil, Lupe, } *For everyone's a part to play within the show,*
Grandma & } *And as we tell our story*

Guards): } *We'll let you share the glory
And have you singing heartily before you go.*

All: *Our enemy the Baron you've already seen.
He's murky and he's moody and he's downright mean.
But though he is a bruiser
It may be he's a loser
Whose evil will be vanquished in the final scene.*

All: *We take it as a compliment you all are here.
We hope to make you laugh a bit, and sometimes cheer:
We're glad that we are able
To bring to you the fable
Of Little Red Riding Hood to start the year.*

(All dance off except ALDERMAN and MRS. HOOD. The ALDERMAN addresses the Audience).

Alderman: Welcome to you all! As Mayor of this town I would like to say, without hesitation, repetition or deviation, that it is a great privilege to welcome you to this town hall. As Mayor of this town

Mrs. Hood: You've said that already, dear.

Alderman: I have? Well, I'm sure the good people out there would like to hear it again. As Mayor of this town

Mrs. Hood: I don't think you need to make a speech to them really, dear. They know who you are. Why don't you go and practice your little address to the Rotary?

(She leads him downstage. He wanders off).

Alderman: *(Exiting)* As Mayor of this town

Mrs. Hood: *(To Audience).* I'm sorry about that. He's a little forgetful, my husband, and if he's forgotten he's told you about being the mayor he'll tell you all over again. He's always been rather forgetful. In fact he forgot how to tell which of our daughters were which until we colour-coded them. Since then they've all grown up to match their colours, and they are a colourful family, our young Riding Hoods. There's Blue, who's a little on the sad side, and Green, who's into conservation. You'd like Yellow, if she isn't too scared to talk to you. But the real little dynamo is Red. And she's always the one who interrupts -

(RED runs on).

Red: Mum, have you heard what's happening?

Mrs. Hood: No, dear.

Red: But you'd like me to tell you?

Mrs. Hood: I know you'll tell me!

Red: The Baron's in town again.

Mrs. Hood: Oh, dear. I wonder what sort of trouble he's going to cause this time?

Red: I don't know. But the others may. They've been talking to people in the town.

(The other SISTERS enter).

Yellow: The Baron and his soldiers are coming this way. It's very scary.

Green: He's in a great big car. Belching out smoke. It's disgusting!

Yellow: They say in the town he wants to get married. Who'd want to marry him?

Blue: It must be sad for him to be hated so much. Shouldn't we feel sorry for him?

Red: No, we shouldn't. He's evil and vicious and thoroughly bad. If he's coming to the Town Hall he'll want to see father. Shall I fetch him?

Mrs. Hood: Yes, dear. Then father can make him one of his nice speeches.

(Exit RED, who returns with ALDERMAN).

Mrs. Hood: Perhaps, if it's one of his best speeches, a really long, long speech, the Baron might decide to go away. Ah, Riding, there you are. We're expecting a visitor.

Alderman: How nice, dear. Then I must greet them. *(Faces door)* As Mayor of this town

(The door is kicked open. Enter BARON with BASIL and GUARDS).

Baron: So there you are, you old fool! And all your family with you. How convenient!

Alderman: I really must object to the unmannerly nature of this intrusion. As Mayor of this town

Baron: As Mayor of this town, you're nothing! I decide what goes on here.

Mrs. Hood: Baron Beastly, you are not to speak to my husband in that way. You are not welcome in this house, and you know it. I assume you have some business with us. State your business and go.

Baron: Yes, indeed I have some business here. Business which concerns your

family. I have a compliment to pay you. Because, as well as being your landlord, lord of the manor and local JP, I also happen to be the richest and most eligible bachelor in this county.

Red: Bachelor? You've had three wives at least. You were divorced only a month ago.

Baron: I can't help it if women don't appreciate me. It's time I turned to a new generation. For example, *(looks along the line of daughters)* yourselves.

Alderman: I cannot say, sir, that I perceive in you any of the qualities I should deem necessary in a son-in-law. Yours is not a proposal that any of my daughters will wish to entertain.

Baron: Oh, really?

Red: Yes, really. One of us as Lady Beastly? You must be joking.

Blue: A joke we don't appreciate.

Green: A joke in very poor taste.

Baron: Young ladies, I never joke. Unless we reach agreement here and now, my guards will escort you to Nightmare Hall where you will stay until I decide which of you shall have the good fortune to be my bride.

Basil: Don't you think, sir, this is rather sudden? Marriage is a big step for anyone to take. They deserve a little time.

Baron: Time? You wittering creature, time? They've had two minutes. Guards, arrest these women!

(The GUARDS step hesitantly forward. The SISTERS knock them to the ground and run off. The GUARDS pick themselves up, very slowly).

1st Guard: Did you see that? She hit me.

2nd Guard: It's disgraceful, the way young people carry on nowadays.

1st Guard: I didn't come here to get hurt, you know.

2nd Guard: Nor me. I blame the schools

Baron: Will you shut up! And Basil, you're supposed to be my steward - a lot you did to help. Go and fetch those girls immediately.

Basil: I'm not sure we ought

Baron: Well, I AM sure. And you're under orders. Move!

(Exit BASIL).

Baron: Now, my Lord Mayor, I seem to have a little unfinished business with your family. My guards and I will stay with you, for your own protection, until your daughters' return.

Alderman: This is outrageous!

Baron: Yes, isn't it? Guards, bring them here. (*The GUARDS seize ALDERMAN and MRS. HOOD*). This seems altogether a more comfortable place than Nightmare Hall. I think I shall enjoy it here, waiting for your daughters.

Mrs. Hood: They won't come back, Baron. We Riding Hoods are never going to give in to the likes of you.

Baron: That sounds very brave, madam. But we shall see we shall see.

SCENE 2 Outside the Town.

(Enter the HOOD SISTERS).

Yellow: Ooh! I'm exhausted. I've never run so fast.

Green: That's because you don't keep fit. You're always eating unhealthy things.

Yellow: There's no need to be rude, just because you'd rather we all lived on birdseed.

Red: Will you two stop bickering! If we stay here too long the beastly Baron will catch us up.

Blue: Perhaps we ought to go back after all.

Red: Nonsense. Once we get through the forest, we'll be at Grandma's house, and she'll know what to do.

Green: The forest will be lovely, full of birds and flowers and trees.

Blue: I've heard it's full of lions and tigers and wolves.

Yellow: It sounds scary to me.

Blue: I want to go home!

Red: Will you pull yourselves together! I'm sure we'll be safe with Grandma, though it's a long time since we've seen her.

Yellow: The last time we went, she gave us the most delicious cream tea.

Green: Yuk!

Blue: I don't feel hungry at all.

Yellow: I do. I could eat a horse.

Green: You're only saying that to annoy me!

Yellow: Well, I do my best.

Red: For heaven's sake, will you never stop arguing? I think I can hear someone coming. It's probably one of the Baron's men. We must be on our way.

Blue: Suppose we meet wild animals in the forest?

Green: Don't worry. Yellow will eat them if she can.

Red: Quickly, this way

(They exit just as BASIL enters).

Basil: *(Calling).* Red! Yellow! Green! Oh, dear - it's like talking to a traffic light. I wish I didn't have this job of rounding up the Baron's prisoners. In fact I'm rather glad they've run away. I really don't enjoy working for the Baron. *(To Audience).* Did you like the Baron?

Audience: No!

Basil: Well, fancy that. You really didn't like him? Did you find him rather noisy and bullying and unpleasant?

Audience: Yes!

Basil: How interesting! I thought it was just me that he didn't appeal to. Well, that decides it. I shall give up working for him. Between ourselves, I've never really enjoyed being a baddie at all. I don't feel at home with all those black cloaks, and sneering and snarling and wearing wicked moustaches. I've always dreamed of myself 9th May 1997 as more of a hero, buckle-swashing about in shining armour. But it's not so simple. Going out to slay dragons and rescue damsels isn't as easy as you might think -

MUSIC 2 - BECOMING A HERO

Basil: *In Fairyland and in the world of panto
Are deeds of heroism to be done.
I know that I could do them if I want to -
To win myself some glory would be fun.
But if I press my claim and start contending
There's no-one who'll accept my offer, since
To win a beauty in a happy ending
In pantomime you have to be a prince.*

*You may possess the manner
Of a perfect knight,
But without a princely banner
Stay out of sight!
You need bravery and toil
And an aim that's true,
But you have to be a royal
To see you through.*

*I've every sort of good and noble feeling
To strengthen my heroical resolve.*

*I'll put aside the wicked double-dealing
That working for the Baron would involve.
But when I find a cause that's really vital
My offers of support are set aside -
I haven't got an honourable title
To bring and to bestow upon a bride.*

*You may possess the manner
Of a perfect knight,
But without a princely banner
Stay out of sight!
You need bravery and toil
And an aim that's true,
But you have to be a royal
To see you through.*

SCENE 3. *In the Forest.*

*(LUPE the wolf is discovered eating a chicken leg and reading a Food magazine.
He is a smooth character, a touch of camp and capable of being charming,
but with food never far from his mind).*

Lupe: *(Musing to himself).* Mmm, lovely. There's nothing better than a nice chicken leg, I always say well two chicken legs, of course, that's better - a whole chicken even, or a sheep, or a cow: my, it's a long time since I ate a nice cow. Better still, of course, *(dreamily)* a human. There's nothing like a nice juicy person. Goes down a treat does a person, best eaten grilled with a garnish of clothing - and never forget to remove the shoes before eating. Yes, who'd want a duck a l'orange when you can have a nice lean chap dressed in a Marks and Spencer cardigan? Ah well, I can but dream

(He gets up, puts on a pinny, and starts to sweep the stage, then stops and leans on his broom).

I'm lucky to find a teenager for the Christmas roast these days, everyone being so scared of coming to the forest. Last year I had to make do with a passing doberman. Like they say, a dog's not just for Christmas: carve it well and you can have some over for Boxing Day. But the way things are, it'll be nut cutlets next Christmas with a pine-cone on the side - imagine a vegetarian

wolf: how depressing! It would be lovely to have a person to eat.... raw even alive even

(As he sweeps he looks up, and for the first time sees the Audience. He double-takes, and a look of disbelieving pleasure crosses his face at the sight of so many people. He puts away his pinny and broom and addresses them with unselfconscious delight).

Hello! How absolutely wonderful to see you all. I can't believe my eyes - it's like the Harrods' food hall! Whatever has brought all of you to the forest? And you're not even in cars. So often these days people come tinned - even the joggers are shrink-wrapped in Lycra. But you look lovely and fresh - rows and rows of ready meals. But I'm forgetting myself - I haven't introduced myself. I'm Lupe, Lupe the wolf, sometimes known as Mr. Wolf, famous for my big eyes, big ears, big teeth and enormous appetite. I can already feel it's going to be a pleasure eating you meeting you did I say meat?.... I'm sorry, I'm all of a fluster. Let me see now, I really ought to know your names - *(picks someone in the front row)* - and you are?

Member of the Audience: [John].

Lupe: Hello, [John], I'm Lupe. Nice to meet you. Will you just come up here for a moment? *(He leads [JOHN] up onto the stage).* Everyone, this is [John]. Say hello to him.

Audience: Hello!

(LUPE shakes [JOHN's] hand and openly feels up his arm to see how much meat there is on him).

Lupe: [John] is what we call a light snack. Still, plenty more where he came from, eh? *(Picks up a baking tray).* [John], would you mind standing on this, please. Lovely, thank you. *(Picks up an apple).* And just pop this in your mouth good now, hang on a second *(LUPE picks up a roll of tinfoil and unrolls some, holding it against [JOHN], deciding how best to wrap him. He continues in the manner of a TV chef).* And remember, everyone, I'm doing this quickly now - but when you're at home always wash your food carefully *(Looking at [JOHN])* you don't know where it's been. *(Picks up a big knife and waves it around to illustrate his next point).* And, children, always get a grown-up to help you with the cutting. Now, what do I fancy? [John], it's so long since I had a whole person to choose from. Do you have a T bone, or is that only cows? Maybe a little fillet to start with or a sausage, perhaps

Red: *(Offstage).* Come along, everybody. Hurry up!

Lupe: I don't believe it! One moment I'm starving, with no more than a parson's

nose to my name - the best bit of a parson, I always think - and the next there's food walking into the forest faster than I can prepare it. I'm sorry, [John], you're going to have to wait till later: there seem to be a few more nibbles on their way in. Could you pop back down to the larder, and I'll see you in a while. Perhaps we could do lunch? Super

Red: (*Offstage*). Oh, do hurry up, Yellow. I've told you there's nothing to be scared about.

Yellow: (*Offstage*). I'm frightened.

Lupe: (*Looking off*). There are lots of them a whole banquet! This is amazing; it must be my birthday. (*To Audience*). Now, if you could all just stay where you are, I'll pop behind this tree for a moment and pick out the tastiest looking morsel. (*Sings to himself*). Food, glorious food

(*Enter RED hastily*).

Red: Oh, come on everyone! (*She addresses the Audience without any surprise they are there*). They are all so slow. We need to get to Grandma's before nightfall, and they're all creeping along, saying they're scared of being in the forest. As if there could be anything dangerous in the forest. I mean, nothing is going to happen to us here: the forest is perfectly safe, isn't it?

Audience: No!

Red: Oh, yes, it is (*etc., etc.*).

(*Enter the other SISTERS*).

Yellow: What's all that noise?

Red: Nothing just birds in the trees.

Yellow: It sounded scary to me.

Blue: Are we nearly there? I'm tired.

Red: I'm sure it isn't far now. This path must lead us there eventually.

Yellow: I'm still scared.

Red: Well, I'm sure these people will help us. (*To Audience*). If you see anything that looks dangerous, will you shout out and tell us? Will you?

Audience: Yes.

Red: (*To YELLOW*). There, you see, that was easily sorted out. Now let's get along.

(*LUPE emerges from behind the tree, claws raised, and preparing to pounce on RED. AUDIENCE reaction. The SISTERS turn: RED looks defiantly at LUPE while the others shriek and huddle together*).

Lupe: (*Acidly, to Audience*). The element of surprise is rather lost with you lot around! (*To RED*). Hello, my dear. And you are?

Red: My name's Red. Red Riding Hood. Who are you?

Lupe: (*To Audience*). Red meat, how tasty! (*To RED*). I am the big bad that is, I am Mr. W.... just call me Lupe.

Red: Pleased to meet you, Mr. Lupe.

Lupe: The pleasure will be all mine. And who are these colourfully packaged little entrées?

Green: We are Red's sisters. I'm Green.

Blue: I'm Blue.

Yellow: I'm Yellow. And (*To RED*), I'm very hungry.

Lupe: A mouthful after my own heart!

Green: You're always hungry! If you ate proper food instead of all that meat, you'd feel better.

Lupe: Oh, I do so agree. It's very important to eat your greens. (*Looking at her*). I intend to! In fact perhaps I can persuade you all to stay here a while. It's supertime, after all.

Red: Thank you, no. We have to be at Grandma's house before dark, and she lives on the other side of the forest.

Blue: We don't want to spend a night in the forest.

Yellow: We'd be frightened. And we mightn't find anything to eat.

Lupe: I know what you mean, so perhaps I can help you. You've caught me at a rather busy time, as I have a packed evening planned, but maybe I could show Red Meat that is, Red Riding Hood a little short cut I know. Would you like that?

Red: Oh, well done.

Lupe: I prefer medium rare.

Red: Pardon?

Lupe: Nothing. That's settled then. Red comes along with me, and I'll be back for the rest of you quicker than you can eat an arm shake a leg skin a cat anyway, I'll be back in no time.

Blue: Don't you think we should stick together?

Yellow: It might not be safe to go on your own.

Lupe: Oh, don't be stupid, Custard.

Yellow: Yellow.

Lupe: Yellow, then. She'll be completely safe with me. (*To Audience*). Won't she?

Audience: No!

Lupe: Oh yes, she will (*etc., etc.*).

(Enter BASIL).

Basil: Oh no, she won't!

Lupe: This meal is taking longer to prepare than I expected. Who on earth are you?

Basil: *(Grandly).* Unhand that girl, you cowardly wolf!

Red and Sisters: Wolf?

Yellow: Are you a wolf?

Lupe: No, no, no, no, no, no yes!

(YELLOW faints into BLUE's arms).

Green: And do you eat people?

Lupe: Only when they stop talking.

(GREEN faints into RED's arms).

Basil: Well, you've eaten your last person, you foul fiend!

Lupe: Foul fiend? That's a bit strong.

Basil: I shall defend these maidens to the death. I shall fight to keep them from your clutches.

Lupe: Couldn't we reach an agreement? If you defend two to the death, and keep one more out of my clutches, couldn't I just keep the red one?

Basil: Your days are numbered, you hound of hell!

Lupe: *(Mouths to Audience).* Hound of hell?

Basil: *(Draws sword).* I shall cut you to shreds!

Green: *(Who has recovered, and grabs BASIL by the arm).* No. You mustn't hurt him. He's just a dumb animal.

Lupe: Dumb? This is getting worse.

Green: He's wild

Lupe: I'm furious!

Green: so let him go.

(GREEN still holds BASIL back, and they argue).

Lupe: I'm starting to get the feeling I'm an endangered species. I think I'll make myself scarce. Now, larder, don't go away. [John], rub yourself down with this garlic *(throws some down to him)*, and I'll see you later for a midnight snack.

(BASIL breaks free from GREEN and advances upon LUPE with a shout).

Lupe: Cripes! *(Exit).*

Basil: There, young maidens, I have saved you from the jaws of death, rescued you from the edge of a precipice of unimaginable danger, brought you

Blue: Hang on a minute! Aren't you Basil, who works for Baron Beastly?

Basil: Yes, I am I was but I've changed.

Blue: Were you sent to bring us all back to the castle?

Basil: Yes, I was, but I'm not that is, I am, but don't want to. Look, let me explain.

Red: I've an idea. You stand here and explain, and we'll sit over there and listen, and if you convince us we'll come with you. Deal?

Basil: Yes, I suppose so. Well, it's like this

(As he speaks, RED motions the SISTERS to leave, and they all tiptoe exaggeratedly away).

Basil: I was, as you say, one of the Baron's men, but I have seen the light and devoted my life to becoming a hero, a man of action, a guardian of truth - you might see me as a frog awaiting the kiss of a princess. Yes, that's it, I'm awaiting a kiss.

(RED appears and blows him a kiss, then vanishes again. BASIL touches his cheek as though feeling the kiss, and then snaps out of his dream, turns and finds he is alone).

Basil: What the They've all gone! Oh, I can't believe it: it's happened again - a chance to be glorious, brave and strong, and here I am on my own, stupid and lonesome and weak.

MUSIC 2a - BECOMING A HERO - [REPRISE]

Basil: *But now I've found a cause that's really vital
My offers of support are set aside -
I haven't got an honourable title
To bring and to bestow upon a bride.*

*There's very little glory
In the common touch,*

*So my hopeful little story
Won't count for much.*

Basil: I give up, I'm going home!

(Exit, very despondently).

SCENE 4. A forest path.

(LUPE'S head appears between the centre curtains, and he looks round).

Lupe: All clear? No cleaver-wielding trainee butchers around phew! Well, at least you're all still here - it would have broken my heart to find my food parcels had disappeared. Anyway, much as I'd like to hang around and chew over a few of you with a beer, I've discovered a plan for a rather convenient little supper. That rainbow of tender young girls is heading for their grandmother's house on the other side of the forest, and if I can get there first they'll serve themselves up to me beautifully. All I have to do is deal with Grandmother, who sounds as if she may be a bit bony - but I'm feeling very peckish, and looking at you lot for so long has put me definitely in the mood for a person, even an old one. So, Grandma's house, here I come! It's time for some Little Red Riding meat. Cheerio!

SCENE 5. Grandma's Kitchen.

(The Kitchen is twee and cosy, with pots and pans hanging up and a table, centre stage. A cloud of smoke appears upstage, and GRANDMA emerges backwards from it, carrying a huge loaf of bread from the oven. She has grey hair in a bun and wears glasses, but she is lively and not at all decrepit. On the wall are pictures of the Riding Hood children, identifiable by their colours).

Grandma: Goodness gracious, there must be an easier way of making bread than in my old steam oven! Still, the results are rather impressive, though I say it

myself. Light as a feather. (*She drops it with a heavy thud on to the table*).
Well, a heavy feather anyway. (*Coming downstage to greet the Audience*).
Hello, everybody.

Audience: Hello.

Grandma: Come along, you've been here ages - you can shout louder than that!
Hello!

Audience: Hello!

Grandma: That's better. I am old Mrs. Hood, you can all me Grandma - cook extraordinaire, grandmother of those pretty girls (*indicating pictures*) and mother of that tiresome father of theirs. I don't see the girls much these days, what with the forest being so dangerous, but I try to keep in touch and I always have plenty of fresh baking in case they come to visit me. Even if I usually end up eating it myself! Some of you look as if you could do with feeding up - but don't worry, your ice-creams will be here soon. And (*sniffs*), there's someone in the front row who smells as if they've been rubbing themselves with garlic. Or perhaps it's one of those modern after-shaves: I'm not very up-to-date! Now, today is baking day, and seeing that you are all here you may be able to help me. I love to cook, but sometimes I'm a bit forgetful about the recipes. I thought I'd make a nice bean pie for my granddaughter Green - she doesn't eat meat, you know - and if I show you my recipe....

(*Song sheet appears with the chorus of "GRANDMA'S RECIPES" on it*).

Grandma: perhaps you would like to sing it along for me. You would? After me, then - one, two, three, four

MUSIC 3 - GRANDMA'S RECIPES

Grandma: *When you're cooking in the kitchen
And you want to make a splash
You must think about your measurements -
A pinch, a touch, a dash -
Or your best boeuf bourgignon will taste
Like horrid corned beef hash:
So you must read my recipes.*

All: *Some eggs, milk, flour and a rolling pin
Will make a lovely pastry:*

*Some orange and lemon and spices put in
Will make it extra tasty:
Some eggs, milk, flour and a rolling pin,
A teaspoon of brandy, a litre of gin,
Some sherry, some cider, and beer from a tin -
Your pudding will go with a bang!*

Grandma: *I was friends with Mrs. Beeton,
Correspond with Mr. Floyd,
There are things that I have eaten
Fanny Craddock has enjoyed,
Marco Pierre White has methods
That I have once employed:
So you must read my recipes.*

All: *Some eggs, milk, flour etc.*

Grandma: That was wonderful, and my pie is all ready to cook. I'll just go and pop it in the oven.

(She exits, as LUPE enters through the auditorium door).

Lupe: Here at last, and I've run all the way on an empty stomach. But I can tell this is the house - I can smell fresh baked bread. Perhaps a Grandma sandwich is on the cards! *(Sniffs)*. There's a faint smell of garlic here too. *(Resolutely)*. Right! Onwards and up the food chain: it's time for Grandma pie.

(He exits through the auditorium door, and re-appears on the stage outside the door to Grandma's kitchen. He knocks, and Grandma re-appears).

Grandma: Oh! More visitors. *(Calling)*. Who is it?

Lupe: Er, hello, Mrs. Grandma. I'm a representative of Peoplecook Ovens, and I wondered if I might talk to you about a new oven?

Grandma: *(To Audience)*. That sounds interesting, and I do like company. Shall I let him in?

Audience: No!

Grandma: Oh, you're such a miserable lot - of course I will. Mr. Peoplecook, do come in.

(She opens the door, and as LUPE steps in she turns her back on him and crosses down to the table).

Grandma: Perhaps you'd like something to eat?

(LUPE smiles at the Audience and advances on GRANDMA, claws raised).

BLACKOUT

End of Act I

ACT II

SCENE 1. *The Town Hall.*

(*BARON BEASTLY is alone on the stage, and greets the Audience.*)

Baron: Why, hello. Remember me? Here I am, enjoying my wicked ways, and you can hiss as much as you like - I shall go on enjoying them. There's nothing like a touch of evil to help the world go round. After all,

MUSIC 4 - *BE BAD!*

Baron: *There's nothing quite as wonderful as being really bad.
Ever since I was a young man I've been making people sad.
I've turned evil to an art form
Driving honest people mad.
There's nothing quite like it; be bad!*

*You've got to be Bad! Bad!
Misanthropic and glad,
When people are down on their uppers
And their lives are depressing and sad.
You've got to be Bad! Bad!
Misanthropic and glad,
When people are down on their uppers
And their lives are depressing and sad.*

*I care for the townsfolk and I find they love me back
Just as long as they pay taxes and work hard and never slack.
But if ever they get uppity
I stretch them on my rack:
There's nothing quite like it; be bad!*

*You've got to be Bad! Bad!
Misanthropic and glad,
When people are down on their uppers
And their lives are depressing and sad.
You've got to be Bad! Bad!
Misanthropic and glad,
When people are down on their uppers
And their lives are depressing and sad.*

*Some people say I'm miserly, tight fisted and greedy,
But I'm always keen to sympathise, and help the poor and needy,
For I lock 'em up and throw away the key.
I'm very speedy,
There's nothing like it; be bad!*

Baron: I think I need some company. Guards!

(GUARDS enter).

Baron: Bring in that dim old alderman and his wife. I reckon that by now they'll be sorry that they and their silly daughters crossed my will.

(GUARDS bring in ALDERMAN and MRS. HOOD).

Baron: Well now, you two. My parents-in-law to be. It's a day since we saw your little girls. Do you think they are enjoying themselves out there in the cold? Wouldn't they be better off back at home with me?

Alderman: As children of the mayor, sir, my daughters will do their duty.

Mrs. Hood: We've no fear for them, Baron. They can look after themselves. They would rather live rough in the forest than look after someone like you.

Baron: The forest, eh? It's not very nice in the forest. If what I hear is true, there's a man-eating wolf in the forest. Not that he's too worried about eating men. He's quite prepared, so I'm told, to gobble up women as well.

Alderman and Mrs. Hood: *(Clearly shaken).* A wolf?

Baron: *(Very cheerfully).* A wolf.

Alderman and Mrs. Hood: A man-eating wolf?

Baron: Man and woman eating. Let's be accurate. *(Pause).* That seems to have given you something to think about. Come on, guards, let's leave them alone. Perhaps they'll decide to send for their precious daughters after all.

(Exeunt BARON and GUARDS).

Mrs. Hood: Riding, what are we going to do?

Alderman: I don't know, my dear. I mean, they're such trusting girls. Green wouldn't run away from a wolf. She'd try to make friends with it.

Mrs. Hood: And Yellow would buy it sweets.

Alderman: And Red would go on and on and on and on at it, until it tidied up its lair.

Mrs. Hood: There must be something we can do

(Enter BASIL).

Mrs. Hood: Why, you're the man the Baron sent to find our daughters. Where are they? Have you brought them back?

Basil: No, I haven't brought them back. *(Looks around furtively).* I've turned against life with the Baron, so I don't think it's the right answer for any daughter of yours. But I can tell you they're safe. I left them in the forest, on the way to their grandma's house.

Mrs. Hood: In the forest?

Alderman: But isn't there a wolf in the forest?

Basil: That's right.

Mrs. Hood: And did they meet the wolf?

Basil: Er, yes.

Mrs. Hood: And did it try to eat them?

Basil: Oh yes - until I drove it off.

Mrs. Hood: You mean, you saved our daughters' lives?

Alderman: You're a hero.

Basil: Yes, I suppose I am, really.

Mrs. Hood: You're wonderful!

Basil: Yes, I suppose I am. But no-one's ever noticed it before.

Alderman: Will you take us to our daughters? We'll see them safely out of the forest together.

Mrs. Hood: Yes. we must be sure they are all right. Hurry, Riding. Fetch your coat, and we'll go.

(The HOODS exit).

Basil: *(To Audience).* Me? A hero? That's what they said. Me? An ordinary bloke. Not any sort of a prince. Well, who'd have thought it?

(Reprise of melody of "BECOMING A HERO").

SCENE 2. *In the Forest.*

(Enter the SISTERS).

Blue: I thought you said we were nearly there. I'm tired.

Yellow: It's getting dark. Now the wolf has gone, perhaps we ought to stay here till morning?

Green: I'd like to stop and listen to the bird song. Isn't that a nightingale?

Yellow: More likely a vulture.

Red: I think we should get on as fast as we can. We can't be more than an hour from Grandma's house. Is anyone coming with me?

Blue: }

Yellow: } No.

Green: }

Red: Very well. Leave it to me. I'll go and tell Grandma how we had to leave home, and ask her what to do about the Baron. The rest of you just come when you're ready. (*To Audience*). They always leave it to me to make all the decisions. So I'll decide for myself for once. I'm going on. (*Exit*).

Green: She's always in such a hurry! Why don't we stay out here and enjoy ourselves. It's a lovely evening. (*To BLUE*). Even you can't be sad tonight.

Blue: I always have a touch of the blues. In fact, right now I think I have a song coming on -

MUSIC 5 - A SONG FOR BLUE

Blue: *I grew up in the city
 Where father is the mayor
 And I quickly came to pity
 The people living there,
 For the hurry and the hustle
 And the traffic and the noise
 And the business and the bustle
 Which nobody enjoys.
 And the sounds of disputation
 And the arguments and strife
 Leave no time for contemplation
 Of the tenderness of life -
 And it gave me the city-girl blues
 Those weary, dreary, city-girl blues.
 Those down-town city-girl blues.
 Now we've left the city,
 We're in the countryside.
 A lot of it is pretty:
 Our eyes are open wide.
 But we're hot and tired and sticky*

*As the sun beats down all day
And the dark is very tricky -
We're afraid to lose our way.
We cannot see the features
When we're walking in the night,
There are creepy-crawly creatures
And horrendous things that bite.*

*And it gave me the country-girl blues
Those abysmal, dismal, country-girl blues.
Those outdoor country-girl blues.*

Sisters: *Our sister's got the blues, our sister's got the blues
Our sister's got the blues, our sister's got the blues*

*She doesn't like the city -
It never makes her sing.
She doesn't like the country -
The nettles have a sting.
Her life is full of sacrifice
Anxiety and care:
One day she'll get to paradise
And find she hates it there.*

All: *It'll give her the heavenly blues
Those eternal, infernal, blues
Long-time heavenly blues.*

(Enter BASIL with ALDERMAN & MRS. HOOD).

Basil: Here they are.

Mrs. Hood: Oh, my darlings. I'm so pleased to see you.

(The SISTERS gather round their PARENTS and hug them).

Basil: All safe and sound.

Alderman: Just a minute. I think there's somebody missing.

Mrs. Hood: Don't be silly, Riding.

Alderman: My dear, I always used to know how many daughters we have. Names
I can never cope with, but colours are one of my strong points. So, you see,

we have Yellow, Green, Blue So who's missing?

Audience: Red.

Yellow: Yes that's right. Red's not here.

Green: She went on ahead.

Blue: To Grandma's cottage.

Basil: I'm sure she'll be all right there. *(To Audience)*. Won't she?

Audience: No!

Basil: Why? What has she got to be scared of?

Audience: Wolf!

Basil: You mean, the wolf's gone on to see Grandma as well?

Audience: Yes.

Basil: Come along, everyone, we can't stay here. We still have some work to do.

(He shepherds them off).

Basil: *(To Audience)*: It seems my heroics will be needed all over again! *(Exit)*.

SCENE 3. *Grandma's Kitchen.*

(GRANDMA and LUPE are standing at the table, their hands in a mixing bowl).

Grandma: and I like to use a lot of herbs in mine

Lupe: Yes, I wanted to eat some Basil only yesterday!

Grandma: and rosemary

Lupe: I don't think I've met Rosemary.

Grandma: and now I'll just get some thyme. *(Exits)*.

Lupe: Good. idea, there's not much time. *(To Audience)*. I bet you're surprised she's still alive. I'm surprised she's still alive. But the sweet young grandchildren haven't arrived yet, and I've been having a cooking lesson while I wait. Talking of which, I think you've rather overdone the garlic, John. Anyway *(wipes his hands on his pinny)* the time has come for Grandma to go to the great Aga in the sky. It seems a shame, but you can't be too sentimental about meals.

(He turns to follow GRANDMA offstage, but instead meets her coming back. She puts a roll of tinfoil into his outstretched arms).

Grandma: Ah, coming to help me? Wonderful! Just hold this.

Lupe: Er yes. *(To Audience)*. Foiled again!

Grandma: Now let me show you how to make a really delicious fish pie - I call it the fisherman's friend.

Lupe: I once ate a fisherman's friend, but the fisherman got away.

Grandma: *(Cheerfully absorbed in her cooking)*. And one egg. *(Breaks it into the bowl)* and another egg *(throws a second egg)* and one for you!

(She tosses a third egg into the air and LUPE leaps to catch it. It does not break. He looks astonished).

Grandma: I like to sing while I cook, you know.

Lupe: *(Looks balefully at the Audience; he is getting tired of this)*. Yes, they told me.

Grandma: *(Chuckling at each title, while LUPE looks increasingly pained)*.

Prawn free, as free as the wind
Whale-meat again, don't know where, don't know when.
There's no plaice like home
Salmon chanted evening
Glory, glory hallelujah, his sole goes marching on.

(She marches off).

Lupe: *(Banging down his pan, and turning to follow her)*. That's it! She's got to go.

Red: *(Offstage)*. Coo-ee, anyone home?

Grandma: *(Re-entering)*. Listen, that sounds like my grand-daughter Red. She's come to see me. Isn't that exciting?

Lupe: *(To Audience)*. Mouth-watering.

Grandma: I must tidy up. I'll just take my apron off.

Lupe: I'll help you

(She exits into the broom cupboard, and he follows. There is much banging and crashing, then silence. LUPE emerges wearing GRANDMA'S pinny and glasses. There is a knock on the door).

Lupe: *(Smiling)*. Supper time! *(Opens door to RED)*. Why, my dear, how lovely to see you. Welcome to my humble cottage. Come in and sit down. I was just thinking of something to eat.

Red: It's such a long time since I was here, Grandma. I'm sure you can hardly remember who I am.

Lupe: Nonsense, my dear. You're just as young and tender - and tasty - as you've always been. It's as if I'd only just left you, and seeing you again is just what I need.

Red: The others send their love, Grandma; they'll be along soon. For the present, you'll have to make do with me.

Lupe: That's all right, my dear. I'm happy to welcome my lovely grand-daughters one at a time. You'll do very nicely as a starter.

Red: This cottage is just as I remember it, Grandma. A little old cottage. And I remember you as a little old lady.

Lupe: Yes, my dear, that's the way I've always been. (*Stoops*). Very little, (*voice cracks*) very old and (*gesture*) very lady-like. (*Sits down, draws a shawl round him*).

Red: But Grandma, you do seem to have changed.

Lupe: Changed, my dear. What nonsense! How can you say that?

Red: When I look at you closely, Grandma, you're still a lovely old person, I can see, but what big eyes you've got!

Lupe: (*Takes off glasses and winks at Audience*). All the better to see you with, my dear.

Red: And what big ears you've got!

Lupe: All the better to hear you with.

Red: And what big teeth you've got!

Lupe: All the better to eat you with.

(He throws off shawl and is revealed holding a knife and fork. RED runs to the door).

Lupe: The time has come for the Red Meat Supper I've been promising myself all day. Welcome to my kitchen. The oven is already warm.

Red: Where's Grandma? I came to see my Grandma.

Lupe: (*Impatiently*). She's in the fridge. I'm keeping her for breakfast. Now don't distract me. There's serious cooking to be done.

(He seizes RED and is marching her towards the upstage door when it opens and BASIL appears).

Lupe: Am I never going to get my supper? What are you doing here?

Basil: I followed this lovely girl here to protect her. You shall not harm a hair of her head.

Lupe: *(To Audience).* This is really very tiresome. *(Lets RED go and picks up a frying pan).* Some of us take our food seriously. If I have to eat all three of you, I will.

(He advances on BASIL who draws a sword. Fight ensues, in which he finds himself cornered by BASIL and RED, who has armed herself with a saucepan. He retreats into the corner by the cupboard which opens, and GRANDMA appears, arms bound but hand grasping a rolling-pin. She clonks LUPE, who falls to the ground).

Red: *(Embraces GRANDMA).* Oh Grandma, you're safe and sound. And you've rescued me from this terrible wolf.

Basil: *(Forlorn).* I was here too, you know.

Red: Yes, of course you were, and it was sweet of you to follow me, but -

(HOOD family appears at the door).

Red: Come in everyone, and see what Grandma has done.

(All enter: GIRLS help to untie GRANDMA).

Alderman: Really, mother - I can't think what you've been up to. Tying yourself up and brawling with this animal. That wasn't what we expected when we bought you this nice sheltered home.

Grandma: *(Outraged).* So that's the thanks I get from rescuing your daughter - my own grand-daughter - from a ravening wolf. What should I have done, I'd like to know?

Alderman: Well, I should have spoken to him - most severely. As Mayor of this town

Mrs. Hood: You tried speaking to the Baron, if you remember, Riding, and that didn't do as much good.

Basil: That's true, we still have the Baron and his men to deal with. He's going to abduct your daughters if we return.

Alderman: He's an evil man. I don't know how we can put an end to him.

Mrs. Hood: He deserves the worst fate that anyone can imagine.

Basil: It would serve him right if he were to meet with

(Everyone turns and looks at LUPE, who rises).

Lupe: A man-eating wolf? Are you telling me that there's a way I might be of

service? That my rather unconventional appetite might be put to good use?
And I might actually get something to eat.

MUSIC 6 - BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND A GOOD HIGH TEA

Lupe: *I'm sorry for my haste
But I'm anxious for a taste
Of a morsel I can recognise as food .
I've quite an appetite
And I've waited half the night
So to keep me any longer would be rude.
You say you will not mind
If I feast on humankind
Provided it's the Baron that I catch.
You're doing me a favour
For the texture and the flavour
Of a nobleman is really hard to match.*

*Oh there's nothing in the day
That so helps it on its way
As the prospect which is dear to me
There's nothing in the day
That so helps it on its way
As breakfast, lunch and a good high tea.*

Yellow: *I'm joining in to say
I've been hungry all the day
And now I'm more than ready for my tea:
Lupe has just been pleading
That a healthy wolf needs feeding
And the same goes for a growing girl like me.
A burger topped with mustard
And some apple pie and custard
And strawberries are very good to eat,
A dozen sort of ices
And some savouries and spices
And Christmas cake would all go down a treat.*

Lupe/Yellow: *Oh there's nothing in the day
That so helps it on its way*

*As the prospect which is dear to me
There's nothing in the day
That so helps it on its way
As breakfast, lunch and a good high tea.*

Grandma: *If anyone is looking
At Grandma's skill in cooking
You'll know my expertise is really grand:
And when you state your wishes
I'll rustle up the dishes
And bake and boil and fry as you command.
So Mr. Lupe, my beauty,
Prepare to do your duty
And bring the Baron to a nasty fate.
And once you've done your daring
I'll set about preparing
A Banquet for us all to celebrate.*

**Lupe, Yellow
& Grandma:** *Oh there's nothing in the day
That so helps it on its way
As the prospect which is dear to me
There's nothing in the day
That so helps it on its way
As breakfast, lunch and a good high tea.*

All: *Its always a special day
When Grandma lets us stay;
We know her hospitality.
Its always a special day
When Grandma lets us stay
To eat breakfast, lunch and a good high tea.*

SCENE 4. A forest path.

(Enter LUPE stage left on an extendible lead - jogs on until centre stage. The lead is jerked tight and he is pulled to a halt).

Lupe: *(Turns to Audience).* This is so humiliating - not long ago I thought

Grandma was no more than the aperitif to a Riding Hood feast, and now she's telling me to sit, lie down, beg and roll over.

Grandma: *(Offstage, calling)*. Lupey, Lupe! Sit and stay! Good boy

Lupe: See what I mean.... I hope this Baron is worth it. If he's less than ten stone, I'm going on strike.

(Enter GRANDMA, ALDERMAN and MRS. HOOD).

Lupe: Look, can you let me off this lead? I've promised I'll help you deal with the Baron, and I won't run away. The Baron is turning into my only chance of a meal today. I mean, supposing I meet someone I know with this on I'd be laughed out of the pack.

Grandma: Well, I suppose we could trust you.

Mrs. Hood: I'm not so sure.

(Enter BASIL SL).

Alderman: Ah Basil, my fine fellow. Mr. Wolf here was just asking to be released from his restraint, unbound of his bands, let off his lead *(Catches a cross look from GRANDMA)*. What do you think?

Basil: Well

(About to speak, BASIL sees RED, who is entering with the other SISTERS in tow. He dries up, gazing at RED, who is gazing back).

Alderman: Well? Basil?

Basil: Oh, hello sorry, I was elsewhere, um, the lead that is no, we should not release the beast. *(Posturing for RED)*. We should

Lupe: *(Wearily)*. Beast? He's off again.

Basil: We should not untether the treacherous hound, I shall

Lupe: Forget I asked, I'm off.

(Exits stage right, still on lead).

Basil: I think I shall go and keep an eye on the er monster. After all, *(to RED)* I must keep you all safe.

(Exits stage right).

Red: He's very brave, isn't he?

Blue: Not at all scared.

Yellow: I think he's a bit of a fool, all that Knight in shining armour stuff - Lupe's just hungry, and so am I.

Mrs. Hood: Yes, we must push on, we may have the wolf in tow, but I've heard there are other fierce animals in the forest.

Yellow: Other animals?

(Inexplicably untied, LUPE has arrived stage left, and joined the line of GIRLS - the lead still stretches off stage right).

Lupe: Yes, you can't be too careful.

Grandma: Lupe! Well, if you are there!

(Pulls lead, which turns out to have a forlorn BASIL on the end).

All: Basil!

Basil: He said he had a surprise for me and I had to shut my eyes.

Lupe: Like candy from a baby Can I suggest that we return to the matter in hand after all, I don't want to go on about it, but I'm feeling a touch peckish.

Mrs. Hood: Yes, I think we should head for home. There's much to do and not long before nightfall.

Grandma: Lupe, you walk with me - there are some recipes I wanted to tell you about.

(The HOODS, SISTERS, GRANDMA and LUPE leave stage right, GRANDMA giving the other end of the lead to BASIL as she walks past him. BASIL stands centre stage - RED is the last to leave and he calls her back).

Basil: Excuse me.

Red: Yes.

Basil: I was wondering *(Motions to the lead)*.

Red: Oh, of course. *(Undoes the lead from his neck)*.

Both: I oh sorry no do go on.

Red: I thought you were ever so brave back there at Grandma's.

Basil: No, really, you were the brave one. I'd love to be a hero, but it keeps going a bit wrong. I never quite know what the right thing is to do not like you, you always seem so sure, so certain.

Red: Oh, I'm just impatient - I can't wait for what I want. Mother says I should hold back, but sometimes I just have to reach out and grab what I WANT

(Grasps his hand). Do you know what I mean?

Basil: Oh yes I think we could be a very good hero together.

MUSIC 7 - HEROES TOGETHER

Basil & Red: *We'd be loving as a couple, and handsome as a pair:
I'd climb ever higher mountains if I knew that you'd be there,
And I'd know that I was braver
Than a wolf hid in a lair.
We'd be heroes together.*

*I'll never feel alone if I knew I'd won your heart:
The sum of two together will more than either part,
And there may be a forever
Of which this is just the start.
We'd be heroes together.*

Basil: *I'm never quite the bravest; I never feel the best:
I always seem to stumble when I face the final test.
But with you here beside me
I feel that I could rest
As your hero.*

Red: *I'm always too impetuous, the first one off the mark:
I want to be much more than this, a flame, not just a spark -
And with you here beside me
I will never fear the dark
As your hero.*

Basil & Red: *If I am yours and you are mine, we'll be the perfect team:
We'll be together evermore, we'll be each other's dream.
And we'll keep each other happily
And everyone will see
That we're heroes, forever,
That we're heroes, together.*

SCENE 5 The Town Hall.

(As the love song ends, the voice of the BARON interrupts from behind the curtain - he screams).

Baron: Shut up!

(BASIL and RED run off stage right as the curtains open. The BARON is sitting centre stage with his feet up on a table. GUARDS enter stage right).

1st. Guard: I beg your pardon, Sir.

Baron: I said shut up, you moron. Are you deaf as well as stupid?

1st. Guard: *(Attempting humour).* Er pardon Sir.

Baron: *(Rising).* Now listen fool, and listen well. I am not a man known for his good humour and lovable spirit. I am not often referred to as Beastly the Kind. or Baron Beastly, Lover of Children, and most certainly not as Baron Beastly, the Man who tolerates insolence from servants who deserve to have their heads cut off. Do I make myself clear?

1st Guard: Yes, Sir.

Baron: Good. *(To Audience).* I hate to be misunderstood. Now, right at the moment all is not going exactly to plan. There are a limited number of people from whom I wish to choose a bride. At present all of those people are careering round the forest, which has a bride-eating wolf in it. The only reason that they had to return, their parents, have escaped from your *(looks at GUARD)* pathetic clutches and are equally lost in the woods. Result: I have no bride and the wolf must be getting rather fat. Luckily, being cleverer than anyone else round here - not that there's much competition - I have a plan.

(Silence).

Baron: Well, do you want to know what it is?

2nd Guard: *(Who has been daydreaming).* Yes Sir.

Baron: I thought you'd never ask. Go into the woods, and don't return without at least one of those stupid Riding Hood girls. That's it.

(Silence).

Baron: Good-bye!

(Silence. GUARD is looking troubled).

Baron: You still seem to be here!?

2nd Guard: I have a question Sir.

Baron: Oh, how tiresome. What is it?

2nd Guard: Suppose the wolf eats me, Sir?

Baron: If you are eaten by the wolf, I shall sack you. so don't let it happen - you don't want to lose your job, do you?

2nd Guard: *(Trying hard to understand the logic here - failing).* No, Sir.

Baron: Then GO!

Guards: Yes, Sir. *(Exeunt).*

Baron: You just can't get the staff these days. Clever, though, if I say so myself. I'll sit here and wait for my bride to be delivered. Meanwhile, with any luck, the big bad wolf will have finished off that tedious Alderman and his interfering wife - Peace at last!

(Puts feet up on table, pulls hat over eyes. Pause, followed by a knock on door stage right).

Baron: Aha - perhaps this is my bride delivery. So soon.... Hello, who is it?

(Enter LUPE wearing GUARD'S hat and sword).

Lupe: My Lord, I am a hungry passer-by. *(To Audience).* I should get an Oscar for all these roles; talk about dressing for dinner!

Baron: A what? Where did you get those Guard's clothes?

Lupe: Ah, I met a man on the way in who didn't need them anymore - in fact he told me where to find you.

Baron: Did he now? Well, get on your way, peasant - I have nothing for you to eat.

Lupe: Oh, I'm not so sure. *(Sits on table facing the BARON).*

Baron: What? Such impudence! Guards! Guards! Come and rid me of this interfering serf. Guards!

Lupe: I think you'll find the Guards are elsewhere at present. *(Taps his stomach contentedly).*

Baron: Don't I know you from somewhere? I'm sure I do those big eyes those big ears!

Lupe: Aren't you forgetting something? *(Smiles).*

Baron: Those big teeth! *(Stands up).* No! You're not the man-eating wolf?!

Lupe: Man and woman eating, let's be accurate.

(Lights off as the BARON runs at LUPE, sword held high to attack. Shrieks fill the

air and sounds of noisy eating, lips smacking etc. LUPE burps loudly.
Lights up and LUPE is sitting at the table with the BARON'S hat on, and the stage and front rows strewn with bones and bits of clothes. LUPE is toying with a sword broken in two).

Lupe: Well, that was good! And just to think they all told me there's no such thing as a free lunch.

(Enter ALDERMAN and MRS. HOOD).

Lupe: Come in, my friends. I've good news for you. That bothersome baron of beef will bully you now no more.

Mrs. Hood: Isn't that splendid, Riding. We can bring our daughters safely home. And the town should honour Mr. Wolf for ridding us of our Beastly burden.

Alderman: Yes, my dear. I think we can find a home for such a noble animal. There is a spare cage in the town zoo. As Mayor of this town....

Lupe: The town zoo? You must be joking!

(HOOD daughters enter except RED).

Alderman: We're all very grateful to you, Mr. Wolf, but we can't have you roaming the forest to the public danger. As Mayor of this town....

Green: You're not putting Lupe in the zoo, father. It's cruel. He'd pine away and die.

Lupe: *(Echoes, nodding).* Pine away and die.

Blue: He'd be miserable and lonely.

Lupe: Miserable and lonely.

Yellow: He wouldn't get enough to eat.

Lupe: Now that's serious.

Alderman: We can't have a man-eating wolf in the forest. And if he's not to stay in the city, where is he to go?

(Enter GRANDMA).

Grandma: You always were a tiresome boy, Riding. Asking all the questions and knowing none of the answers. It's perfectly simple. Lupe's coming home with me. I can't let a good cook go.

Alderman: But, mother

Grandma: It's time my grandchildren came out to stay with me. And how can I cook for you all without someone to help me? You should see Lupe's touch

with the pastry. My puddings and pies are as light as air since he came.

Mrs. Hood: But will you be safe?

Yellow: Won't you be scared?

Alderman: Are you sure?

Grandma: Come along, Lupe. That's not the right hat for you, try one of these.
(Takes the *BARON'S* topper and gives him a *Chef's hat*). You're not going to EAT me, are you?

Lupe: Why no, Grandma. I don't expect I will.

Alderman: If that's settled, we've one more person to thank. Where is that dashing young hero, Basil?

(Enter *BASIL*).

Basil: I'm here, Alderman. I seem to have missed the action as usual.

Alderman: Nonsense, my boy. Without you we'd never have escaped from the Baron in the first place.

Basil: Well, if I hadn't helped you escape, I'd never be where I am now, which is waiting to make an announcement

(Pause).

Mrs. Hood: Well? Spit it out!

Basil: I have been trying to be a hero for too long, and I have decided that I'm not going to be a hero anymore. I've met someone who has agreed to be my hero, and I will be hers. Alderman, your daughter has agreed to be my bride.

Blue: I don't think I have.

Yellow: This sounds a bit scary.

Green: Well, I'll have to think it over.

Basil: No, no, no. I'm not going to marry any of you lot. Alderman, may I present my bride-to-be, your daughter Little Red Riding Hood.

(Enter *RED*, who holds hands with *BASIL* and gazes into his eyes).

Alderman: I think this calls for a banquet. I wonder if you cooks could rustle something up. It strikes me that the end of the Baron, the safety of the woods and the marriage of my daughter are reasons enough for a celebration. My dear, I think we may be about to live happily ever after.

MUSIC 8 - A BIT OF WHAT YOU FANCY

Alderman: *As Mayor of this town I will be happy ever after,
My people can rejoice again, we'll hear the sound of laughter:
And as people celebrate the marriage of Red Riding Hood
You'll hear them sing that some of what you fancy does you good*

All: *Yes! You'll hear us sing that some of what you fancy does you good.*

*If you want to try to skydive or to eat some chocolate cake
Or you fancy basketweaving underwater in a lake,
If you're mindful to try anything, but don't think that you should
Just remember, trying some of what you fancy does you good.*

Lupe: *You may think that eating people sounds a nasty thing to do
But you won't say that once you've tried my famous cub scout stew.
It's not naughty to fry brownies or put children in a pud:
Never fear, cook what you fancy, and you'll find it does you good*

All: *Yes! You'll hear us sing that some of what you fancy does you good.*

*If you want to try to skydive or to eat some chocolate cake
Or you fancy basketweaving underwater in a lake,
If you're mindful to try anything, but don't think that you should
Just remember, trying some of what you fancy does you good.*

*Farewell from us. It's time to go on out into the night.
If you fancy, why not cartwheel home, or stay out 'til it's light?
If you're contemplating hopping, nude, but think you never could
Then think again, for some of what you fancy does you good.*

Yes! You'll hear us sing that some of what you fancy does you good.

*If you want to try to skydive or to eat some chocolate cake
Or you fancy basketweaving underwater in a lake,
If you're mindful to try anything, but don't think that you should
Just remember, trying some of what you fancy does you good.*

Yes! Remember - trying some of what you fancy does you good.

THE END