

TROUBLE WITH BROTHER

A Short Play

by

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SchoolPlay Productions Ltd

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

TROUBLE WITH BROTHER

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CAST - *in order of appearance*

- KELLY *Intelligent with a strong personality. She must be able to do Mysteria and Fortuna's circus act.*
- DEAN *Kelly's younger brother so he must look younger and smaller than her.*
- PAUL }
SARAH }
 Kelly's friends.
- MUM *She loves her children but is harassed and overworked.*
- SHADOWS *Any number of boys and girls. Shadows 1,2,3 and 4 speak solo. Shadow 4 must be a girl.*
- QUEEN of DARKNESS *An out and out baddy!*
- M. ZORRO *A flamboyant gipsy circus ringmaster. If boy numbers are limited he could be Madame Zara.*
- MYSTERIA }
FORTUNA }
 Two gipsy circus performers. Male or female. They must be able to plate spin, juggle, do acrobatics or some other circus type act.
- DREAM MAKER *A magical, mysterious figure. Male or female.*
- DREAM QUEEN }
PRINCESS }
PRINCE }
 Typical story book type characters.
- 3 WITCHES *Typical ugly old hags.*
- MAYOR *Can be male or female.*
- VILLAGERS *Any number of boys and girls.*

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SCENE 1 The House.

Curtains open. DEAN is cutting out paper soldiers in middle of stage. Enter KELLY, SARAH and PAUL from the back of the auditorium.

Sarah: Have you asked your mum yet Kelly?

Kelly: Not yet.

Paul: But the disco's tonight.

Sarah: You're leaving it a bit late aren't you?

Kelly: It's so difficult to talk to mum. She's so busy. She's either out at work or rushing around doing the housework.

Sarah: You'd better ask her as soon as you get in.

Paul: We'll call for you.

Kelly: Okay. *(SARAH and PAUL exit having never got on stage. KELLY goes up on to stage)*

Kelly: *(shouting)* Hello mum, I'm home.

Dean: Hello Kelly.

Kelly: Shut up maggot.

Mum: *(offstage)* I'm just making a cake Kelly. Did you have a good day at school?

Kelly: It was okay. Mum, I've got to ask you something. *(MUM enters)*

Mum: Not now Kelly, I'm busy. I've only just got back from the shops. Can you run a duster round for me?

Kelly: *(points at DEAN)* Why can't HE do anything?

Mum: Because I asked you. Now don't argue. Get on with it while I put the cake in the oven. *(MUM exits)*

Kelly: *(to DEAN)* You lazy slug.

Dean: Leave me alone. Get on with the dusting like mum told you.

Kelly: What have you got there?

Dean: I'm cutting out paper soldiers.

Kelly: *(picks up paper)* That's my history essay! You rotten little toad, you've cut up my history essay. Mr. Lawrence will kill me! *(KELLY starts hitting DEAN)*

Dean: MUM! MUM!

Kelly: I ought to kill you. You're nothing but trouble I wish you'd never been born. *(The lights go out. As they come up again some SHADOWS appear on*

one side of the stage. MUM enters opposite)

Mum: What on earth is going on?

Dean: *(runs to mum)* Mum, Kelly keeps hitting me.

Mum: Kelly, how many times do I have to tell you to leave your brother alone.

Kelly: He cut up my history essay, then the lights went out for a second.

Mum: Oh no, I suppose that means I'll have to put a new bulb in.

Kelly: What about my essay?

Dean: Who cares about your stupid essay?

Mum: That was very naughty of you Dean. Clear up the pieces and put them in the bin. I'll have to write to your school Kelly and tell them what happened.

Kelly: Oh great. It took me two hours to write that. I wish Dean would just disappear. *(Lights go out. When they go up again a second group of shadows has appeared. As before MUM, KELLY and DEAN do not see them)*

Mum: Oh dear. I hope that bulb doesn't go until tomorrow. I don't think we've got any spare bulbs left.

Dean: I wish YOU'D just disappear. Nag, nag, nag. She hasn't even started the dusting mum.

Kelly: Blabbermouth! Tell tale tit!

Mum: Will you two stop bickering? Now I can smell something burning. *(She goes to exit)*

Kelly: Mum.

Mum: What now?

Kelly: Paul and Sarah are going to the school Disco tonight. Can I go too?

Mum: Oh Kelly, you should have said about it earlier. I've been asked to work tonight. I need you to babysit Dean.

Dean: I don't want Kelly babysitting me.

Kelly: I wish I really COULD sit on you BABY. I'd squash you flat and then you wouldn't be able to mess up my life any more.

Mum: I'm sorry Kelly but the Disco is out of the question. *(She sniffs)* Something IS burning. *(MUM rushes off. Enter PAUL and SARAH from auditorium. They come up onto stage and knock on "door". KELLY goes to answer)*

Paul: Hello Kelly. Hey, you're still in your uniform.

Sarah: Hurry up and change or we'll be late for the Disco.

Dean: She can't go. She has to stay here and look after me.

Paul: Oh Kelly, what a shame.

Sarah: Brothers can be a real pain in the backside. *(DEAN sticks out his tongue at them)*

Kelly: I hate him. He's cut up my history essay, he never helps around the house, and now he's stopping me from going to the Disco. I wish I could find a way

to get rid of him. (*Lights go out. When they come up again a third group of SHADOWS has appeared*)

Paul: What was that?

Dean: The lights keep going on and off every time SHE'S nasty to me.

Sarah: We're sorry you can't see Kelly. We'll tell you all about it at school tomorrow.

Paul: Bye. (*PAUL and SARAH exit through auditorium. MUM enters with coat on*)

Mum: I'm off now. There's some cake in the kitchen for you, it's only a bit burnt round the edges. I'll bring some fish and chips back with me tonight. Now you two, DON'T fight and DON'T argue. Since your father left us I've got to go to work and it doesn't help if I'm worrying all the time about what you're up to at home.

Kelly: We'll be all right so long as HE behaves.

Dean: We'll be all right so long as SHE leaves me alone.

Mum: Go and get yourselves some cake, watch the telly and I'll be back as soon as I can. (*MUM exits through auditorium*)

Kelly: Come on then and I'll cut you a slice.

Dean: A BIG slice. You always give yourself the biggest. Cut ME the biggest this time. (*KELLY and DEAN exit. The SHADOWS move downstage*)

1st Shadow: She said she wished he'd never been born. She wished he'd disappear.

2nd Shadow: Yes, she definitely wants to get rid of him. She thinks he's a real pain.

3rd Shadow: We're the Shadows of Despair. We're only summoned by people who hate.

1st Shadow: We can grant her dearest wish and take her brother away.

2nd Shadow: So far she's wished to get rid of him three times. She only has to wish once more.

3rd Shadow: She has to wish it FOUR times because that is our magic law.

1st Shadow: And then the Queen of Darkness will come to spirit the brother away for ever.

2nd Shadow: If the girl wishes to save the boy she's going to have to be careful what she says.

3rd Shadow: Hush my companions, I hear the brother and sister returning. Let us return to the shadows and listen closely to what is said. (*SHADOWS go back to their original places. DEAN and KELLY enter*)

Dean: See, I told you you always have the biggest bit.

Kelly: That's because I AM the biggest.

Dean: You'll get fat and then there's no point in you ever going to a Disco because

no one will want to dance with a fatty.

Kelly: Oh shut up Dean. We should be nice to each other for mum's sake. You watch the telly. I'm going to read a book. *(KELLY sits down and opens a book. DEAN watches TV. He yawns, stretches, gets up, walks round bored. He picks up a water pistol. Looks at it. Looks at KELLY)*

1st Shadows: Yes, yes, go on.

2nd Shadows: Make her angry little boy.

3rd Shadows: The Queen of Darkness is coming for you. *(DEAN creeps up behind KELLY. He fires the water pistol. KELLY leaps up)*

Kelly: You little pig!

Dean: Ha ha, you do look funny. The water's dripping down your ear!

Kelly: I hate you. I really wish we could get rid of you. I wish someone would come and take you away. *(Lights go out again. When they come on QUEEN OF DARKNESS enters)* Who are you?

Qu. Dark: I'm the one you just called for my dear. You wished someone would come and take your brother away. Well, I have come.

Dean: *(hiding behind KELLY)* I'm frightened Kelly.

Kelly: Get out of this house. We've got nothing worth stealing.

Qu. Dark: Oh but you have my dear. *(She grabs DEAN by the ear)* You have this little boy. It just so happens I collect children.

Kelly: You can't take my brother.

Qu. Dark: Oh yes I can. You asked me to. FOUR times.

1st Shadows: I wish he'd never been born, you said.

2nd Shadows: I wish he'd just disappear, you said.

3rd Shadows: I wish I could think of a way to get rid of him, you said.

Qu. Dark: I wish someone would come and just take him away, you said. You have summoned the Queen of Darkness and her Shadows of Despair. We will relieve you of your burden. *(SHADOWS surround DEAN)*

Kelly: But I didn't really mean it. I never really expected anyone to take him.

Qu. Dark: You shouldn't have said it if you didn't mean it.

1st Shadows: Now it's said.

2nd Shadows: Now it's done.

3rd Shadows: Now it's too late.

Qu. Dark: Farewell my dear. You should thank us. Your brother will never annoy you again.

Dean: Kelly, Kelly, HELP! *(QUEEN exits. SHADOWS push and pull DEAN after her. KELLY runs after them)*

Kelly: Come back, come back. *(She re-enters)* They've just disappeared! Oh no, what will mum say? She'll kill me! *(Enter SARAH and PAUL from auditorium singing and dancing to a Disco song. They go up on stage and*

knock on "door")

Sarah: Hello Kelly. We felt sorry for you missing out on the Disco.

Paul: So we decided to come over and keep you company.

Sarah: What's the matter Kelly? You look like you've seen a ghost.

Paul: And where's that grotty brother of yours?

Kelly: Gone.

Sarah: What? Did your mum take him to work with her?

Paul: In that case you can come to the Disco with us.

Kelly: He's been taken by the Queen of Darkness and her Shadows of Despair.

Sarah: Come again?

Paul: Have you been at your mum's sherry?

Kelly: It's all my fault, I kept wishing him gone and now he's really been taken away.

Sarah: Do you mean someone's kidnapped him?

Paul: They'll soon give him back; he's such a little toad.

Kelly: I've got to find him and bring him back home.

Sarah: We'll come with you.

Paul: Where will you look?

Kelly: I don't know. They were really weird people.

Sarah: What about the circus?

Paul: Yes, there's a circus in **(the name of your town)** this week. There are some pretty unusual people there.

Sarah: Let's get going then.

Kelly: You don't have to come. It could be dangerous.

Paul: We're your friends aren't we? Come on. *(KELLY, SARAH and PAUL exit through auditorium)*

SCENE 2 Outside the Circus Big Top.

(Enter MONSIEUR ZORRO)

Zorro: Roll up, roll up to the greatest little circus in the world. Monsieur Zorro's circus. Monsieur Zorro at you service ladies and gentlemen. If you cross my palm with a few pound coins I'll tell your fortune from the lines on your hand. Cross my palm with fivers and I'll read the crystal ball for you. No? Nobody interested? It's the same all over the country. No one believes in fortune tellers any more. Well, I believe in it and I think I'll have a look into my own future. *(He brings a crystal ball out from beneath his cloak and looks into it)* Crystal ball let me see
What will my future be?

AAAAH! TREACHERY! My two star performers, Mysteria and Fortuna, are planning to desert me. We'll see about that. I'll fix them. (*shouts off*)
Mysteria, Fortuna, come here. (*Enter MYSTERIA and FORTUNA*)

Mysteria: What do you want Monsieur Zorro?

Zorro: How many tickets have we sold for tonight's performance?

Fortuna: Ten. Nobody wants to come to the circus any more.

Mysteria: We think you should call it a day. Sell up.

Zorro: Sell up? Sell up? This circus has been in my family for generations. I will NEVER sell it.

Fortuna: Well, we're really fed up Monsieur Zorro. We haven't been paid in months.

Mysteria: It's no fun doing our act to empty seats.

Fortuna: We want to leave the circus. Give us the money you owe us and we're off.

Zorro: Oh no my dears. The crystal ball warned me of your treachery. Do you believe in the gypsy curse?

Mysteria: Of course, we're gypsies ourselves.

Zorro: Then listen carefully to what I say. If you leave me bad fortune will follow you wherever you go. I will put a curse on you from which you can never escape.

Fortuna: Is there no way we can change your mind?

Zorro: Only one way. You can leave if you can find someone who can do your act as well as you. Only then will I free you.

Mysteria: Where will we find someone who can take our place?

Zorro: I doubt you ever will my dears. You will be my prisoners for ever.
(*ZORRO exits, laughing evilly*)

Fortuna: Wicked old ratbag.

Mysteria: There's no escape for us. He really will curse us if we try to leave him.

Fortuna: Why can't he understand people don't find circuses interesting any more.
(*Enter KELLY, PAUL and SARAH*)

Paul: Hello.

Mysteria: If you've come for tonight's performance it doesn't start for another hour.

Sarah: Are you circus performers?

Fortuna: Yes.

Paul: What's your act?

Mysteria: We are plate spinners. (NB they could be jugglers, acrobats, or any other skill the actors have)

Kelly: Plate spinners! I've always thought that was really clever. Can you show us?

Fortuna: I don't see why not. (*MYSTERIA and FORTUNA demonstrate. KELLY, PAUL and SARAH applaud*)

Mysteria: (*to FORTUNA*) Maybe we could use these three to help us escape. (*to KELLY, PAUL and SARAH*) Why don't you have a go?

Sarah: Can we? (*SARAH has a go. She can't do it*)

Fortuna: (*to PAUL*) You try it.

Paul: I'll be useless. (*PAUL has a go. He can't do it*)

Mysteria: (*to KELLY*) What about you?

Kelly: I can't do it. We're wasting time. We're looking for my brother. Have you seen him?

Fortuna: We might have. You have a go at this first then we'll tell you. (*KELLY has a go. She can do it. EVERYONE applauds*)

Sarah: That's brilliant Kelly.

Paul: I didn't know you could plate spin.

Kelly: Neither did I. But what about my brother? (*MYSTERIA and FORTUNA go downstage to whisper*)

Mysteria: I'll get Monsieur Zorro here. You trick her friends into coming with you. (*MYSTERIA exits*)

Fortuna: You said you were looking for your brother?

Kelly: That's right. Have you seen him?

Fortuna: There's a young boy come to stay with the strong man. Let me take your friends to see if he is your brother. You stay here. Mysteria is fetching someone who would like to see your skills.

Sarah: Come on then Paul, we'll just see if Dean's here. We'll be back in a minute Kelly. (*FORTUNA leads SARAH and PAUL off. MYSTERIA and ZORRO enter*)

Mysteria: Here she is.

Zorro: Only one to replace two of you?

Mysteria: Show Monsieur Zorro what you can do. (*KELLY shows off her plate spinning or other skill*) She's very good isn't she?

Zorro: (*walking all round her*) She has talent, yes.

Mysteria: I'll be off then Monsieur Zorro. Forget the money you owe us. Bye. (*MYSTERIA backs away then runs off*)

Zorro: So my dear, you are to be my new circus star.

Kelly: What?

Zorro: We'll give you star billing. You shall travel all over the country with me.

Kelly: No way. I'm not staying with you. I've got to find my brother.

Zorro: You get star billing, even above the elephant! You have taken on Mysteria's and Fortuna's act. They have left you here in their place. (*He whips a rope around KELLY and ties her up*) And in case you have any silly

ideas about running away, this will keep you.

Kelly: Let me go!

Zorro: When you have decided to work for me I will untie you. I'll leave you to think about it. (*ZORRO exits. KELLY struggles in the ropes. Enter SARAH and PAUL, running*)

Paul: Kelly! What happened to you?

Kelly: There's a batty man who thinks I'm going to take part in his circus. Did you find Dean?

Sarah: Fortuna didn't take us to any boy. She took us to a caravan, locked the door on us and ran away.

Kelly: Mysteria said I was taking her place in the circus.

Paul: Well we've been well and truly conned.

Kelly: Untie me quick before that awful man comes back.

Sarah: You wait till I get my hands on Mysteria and Fortuna.

Paul: Where do we go now?

Kelly: I don't know but as far away from here as possible. (*SARAH, KELLY and PAUL run off*)

SCENE 3 *Castle of Darkness.*

(*Enter QUEEN OF DARKNESS, DEAN and SHADOWS*)

Dean: Let me go. I want to go home.

Qu. Dark: Nonsense. Nobody wants you at home, but we want you here.

Dean: My mum wants me, and Kelly wants me too when I'm not being naughty.

Qu. Dark: Stay with us Dean. Join my Shadows of Despair.

1st Shadows: We were children once.

2nd Shadows: But our families got fed up with our naughtiness.

3rd Shadows: So the Queen of Darkness took us and now we serve her.

Qu. Dark: You can be as naughty as you like here. I positively ENCOURAGE naughtiness, especially if it hurts others.

Dean: I don't want to hurt people.

1st Shadows: It's fun being wicked.

2nd Shadows: And spiteful.

3rd Shadows: And cruel.

Qu. Dark: (*picks up a drink*) You must be thirsty Dean. Have a drink. (*DEAN takes glass and drinks*)

Drink little boy, drink your fill.

I promise it won't make you ill.

Let goodness seep out from your mind

So you no longer want to be kind.

*Forget your sister, forget your mother
And turn your affections to we others.
Your home is now in my dark lair
As you join my Shadows of Despair.*

(DEAN gives empty glass to QUEEN. He kicks a SHADOW)

Shadow 1: OW!

Qu. Dark: Good, good. Did you enjoy that Dean? *(DEAN pushes a second SHADOW over)*

Shadow 2: OW!

Qu. Dark: Better and better. Take him away my Shadows. He is growing darker and darker. *(DEAN trips up a third SHADOW)*

Shadow 3: OW! *(SHADOWS take DEAN out)*

Qu. Dark: Let his sister come seeking him. Soon he will not even recognise her. But why be bothered with a troublesome girl? I shall deal with her right now. *(calls stage right)* Dream Maker, come to me. *(DREAM MAKER enters)*

Dream Maker: You summoned me oh Queen of Darkness?

Qu. Dark: I did indeed Dream Maker. I have a task for you. I am about to add another child to my Shadows but his sister is trying to stop me. I want you to prevent her coming here.

Dream Maker: There is no problem with that. I will make her dreams come true. Then she will forget all about her brother.

Qu. Dark: Do it then. Do not fail me. *(QUEEN exits)*

SCENE 4 The Palace of Dreams.

Dream Maker: What does every girl dream of? Being a Princess of course. I will create a mist for her friends to lose themselves in. The girl will enter her dream alone. *(calls stage left)* Come in Dream Queen, *(calls stage right)* come in Dream Princess, take your places in this Palace of Dreams. *(As DREAM QUEEN and DREAM PRINCESS enter the Castle of Darkness is transformed into the Palace of Dreams. DREAM MAKER arranges three thrones)*

Dream Maker: *(to QUEEN)* You sit here. *(to PRINCESS)* You sit here. Very nice. *(DREAM QUEEN and DREAM PRINCESS sit on thrones)* Now where's that girl? *(Enter KELLY right)* Ah, there you are. Now in this scene you're going to forget everything that's gone on before. This is your mother *(indicates QUEEN)*. This is your sister *(indicates PRINCESS)*. This Palace is your home and you are now a Princess. Got all that? Good. Let the scene begin. *(Exit DREAM MAKER)*

Dr. Queen: Ah there you are. Do seat yourself.

Kelly: I beg your pardon?

Princess: Come and sit by me quickly. Have you forgotten what is happening today?

Kelly: What IS happening today?

Dr. Queen: Today my dear Princess you are to meet the Prince who will make you his bride.

Kelly: What?

Princess: How I envy you. It's what all princesses dream of isn't it? A handsome Prince to marry us so we can live happily ever after.

Kelly: I'm a Princess?

Dr. Queen: Of course you are. Here, put on your crown and sit by your sister.
(KELLY puts on crown and sits, bemused, on throne)

Kelly: *(after a pause)* So what do we do now?

Princess: Nothing of course. Princesses don't ever DO anything. We smile prettily. We wave at any common people we see, like this. *(PRINCESS does royal wave. KELLY tries it)*

Dr. Queen: Very good.

Princess: We try not to be around if any dragons are about. It's very unfair that dragons only seem to want to eat princesses. You'd have thought common people would do just as well, there are so many of them no one would be missed.

Kelly: Can't we get up and move around?

Dr. Queen: No. Sit still and wait for the Prince to come.

Kelly: What if I don't like him?

Princess: OF COURSE you'll like him. Princesses always like any Prince who wants to marry them. You don't hear of Sleeping Beauty waking up and saying yuk when she sees who's woken her with a kiss!

Dr. Queen: Everyone loves a Prince.

Kelly: I have to say our lives seem very boring.

Dr. Queen: What nonsense! Hark! the Prince is approaching. *(enter PRINCE right. He is smaller than both KELLY and the PRINCESS. He bows)*
Welcome, welcome Your Highness to our palace. Let me introduce you to my eldest Princess, your intended bride.

Kelly: He's a bit small isn't he?

Princess: I think he's sweet.

Prince: Good day to you fair Princess.

Kelly: Hi. *(there is a pause. She turns to the PRINCESS)* What happens now? Does he take me to a Disco or something?

Prince: Disco? What is a Disco?

Kelly: Dancing. You know.

Prince: Ah, dancing. We can waltz if you like. (*PRINCE goes to dance with her*)

Kelly: I can't waltz.

Princess: I can.

Prince: Perhaps you would care for something to eat?

Kelly: I could murder a Big Mac.

Prince: Pardon? Who is Big Mac? If he has upset you fair maiden I shall run him through with my sword.

Kelly: I mean I could eat a huge beefburger.

Princess: Princesses have hardly any food on their plate and even then they just pick at it. We have to keep our sylph like figures.

Kelly: But I like food!

Dr. Queen: Can I have a word with you in private my dear? (*KELLY and DREAM QUEEN move down stage. PRINCE sits next to PRINCESS and chats*) You're really not trying very hard to impress the Prince are you? If you're not careful he won't want to marry you.

Kelly: Well I don't want to marry him.

Dr. Queen: (*starts to faint*) Quick! My smelling salts. I've come over all faint. (*PRINCESS helps QUEEN back to her throne then sits back next to the PRINCE. KELLY goes to sit down but there is no seat left*)

Princess: Tell me more of your adventures brave Prince.

Prince: Well, I have killed at least ten dragons, two giants and the ugliest Troll you ever saw.

Princess: How fearless you are. (*KELLY yawns loudly*)

Prince: (*stands up and bows to QUEEN*) I hope I will not upset your Majesty, but I fear I cannot marry the Princess you have chosen for me.

Dr. Queen: (*to KELLY*) SEE! I TOLD you you would lose him. What a scandal this will be. I will never be able to hold my head up again. My Princess, REJECTED.

Prince: However, I would love to marry THIS Princess.

Princess: How wonderful. It's my dream come true.

Dr. Queen: OF COURSE you can marry her. (*stands PRINCE and PRINCESS side by side*) You make the perfect couple.

Kelly: You're joking!

Princess: (*to KELLY*) Please don't be too upset. I don't think you're really cut out to be a Princess, do you?

Kelly: No. It was something I always used to dream about when I was little but now I realise I wouldn't like it at all.

Princess: Farewell then. My Prince and I are going off to live happily ever after. (*PRINCE and PRINCESS exit*)

Dr. Queen: What a disappointment you are to me. However will you survive in this world without a Prince to look after you?

Kelly: I can look after myself.

Dr. Queen: Aaaaah! A women's libber! Where are my smelling salts? (*DREAM QUEEN runs off*)

Kelly: (*snapping out of her dream*) What IS going on? Where are Sarah and Paul? (*KELLY runs off. Enter DREAM MAKER and QUEEN of DARKNESS*)

Qu. Dark: Curses! The dream did not work.

Dream Maker: I tried my best your Majesty. She really wasn't Princess material, was she? Perhaps she has another dream I could try.

Qu. Dark: No. Her only other dream is to get her brother back.

Dream Maker: Then I can't help you, can I?

Qu. Dark: You have failed me Dream Maker. I won't forget that. I shall get my revenge on you. But first I must make sure her brother can't be found. (*Exit QUEEN of DARKNESS*)

Dream Maker: Poor girl. Why shouldn't her dream come true when her first failed so badly? My job is making dreams come true. I won't let the Queen of Darkness threaten me. If I can find a way to help Kelly then I will. (*Exit DREAM MAKER. Enter PAUL and SARAH dragging in MYSTERIA and FORTUNA followed by KELLY*)

Paul: Where did you get to Kelly? We lost you in the mist.

Kelly: I think I've been dreaming.

Sarah: While you were gone we found these. (*indicates MYSTERIA & FORTUNA*)

Paul: Shall we beat them up now or later?

Fortuna: We're ever so sorry we tricked you.

Mysteria: It was the only way we could escape from Monsieur Zorro. I knew your friends would be able to rescue you.

Fortuna: We'll make it up to you.

Mysteria: Just let us know what we can do.

Sarah: Do you know where Kelly's brother is?

Fortuna: No, but I know some people who might help us.

Mysteria: The three witches.

Paul: Witches! Don't talk nonsense. There's no such thing as witches.

Fortuna: Oh yes there are. If Kelly's brother can be spirited away and Monsieur Zorro can see into the future then surely you can believe in witches.

Sarah: We'll try anything once. What do you say Kelly?

Kelly: Yes, let's get going. I've wasted enough time here dreaming.

Mysteria: The witches are this way. (*KELLY, PAUL, SARAH and FORTUNA exit*)

SCENE 5 *Outside the witches cave.*

(The three WITCHES are sitting round a cauldron)

Witch 1: Round the cauldron sit we three

Witch 2: As ugly as a witch could be.

Witch 3: Hear the rushing of the wind, it seems

Witch 2: You've eaten too many of those baked beans!

Witch 1: We are horrible, rotten old hags

Witch 3: We should hide our heads in carrier bags. *(Enter KELLY, PAUL SARAH, MYSTERIA and FORTUNA)*

Witches: Hubble bubble toilet trouble Fire burn and cauldron bubble.

Paul: Excuse me, isn't that supposed to be toil and trouble, not toilet trouble?

Witch 1: No, it's toilet trouble.

Witch 2: We ate a rat that disagreed with us.

Witch 3: So we have to keep running to the loo!

Witches: Hubble bubble toilet trouble How our tummies churn and rumble!

Fortuna: Before you get caught short again we want to ask you a question.

Witch 1: Fire away.

Mysteria: Where is the brother of this girl?

Witch 2: He's in the Kingdom of Darkness with the Queen.

Kelly: How do we get there?

Witch 1: Oh no. You said you'd only ask A question. That's it. *(WITCHES cackle with laughter)*

Witch 1: But we MIGHT answer another question.

Witch 2: IF you will do three tasks for us.

Sarah: Tell us what they are.

Witch 3: Number one, sew up all our socks. *(WITCH 3 removes socks from cauldron)*

Sarah: Ooooh! What smelly, holey socks.

Witch 1: Will you do the task?

Sarah: All right. Fortuna, you can help me. *(SARAH and FORTUNA exit holding the socks at arms length with one hand and their noses with the other hand)*

Witch : Task two. Scrub our warty toads. *(WITCH 2 removes three toads from the cauldron)*

Mysteria: Ugh! I'm not touching them. I hate toads.

Witch 2: If you don't do the tasks we won't give you the answer you seek.

Paul: Don't worry. I'll go and scrub your warty toads for you. Give them here. *(PAUL exits with toads)*

Witch 3: Task three.

Mysteria: I hope it doesn't involve any creepy crawlies.

Witch 3: Your third task is to clean our broomsticks. Nowadays there's so much pollution in the air that every time we go flying our broomsticks get filthy.

Kelly: That's no problem. Come on Mysteria, we'll soon have these broomsticks sparkling again. *(KELLY and MYSTERIA exit with broomsticks)*

Witch 1: Do you think they'll be able to complete the tasks?

Witch 2: No. We've made them so difficult they won't be back.

Witch 3: *(burps)* Pardon me. Those beans are coming back again. *(enter SARAH and FORTUNA with brand new socks)*

Sarah: Here you are. Here's every one of your rotten old socks as good as new.

Fortuna: My fingers have gone stiff with sewing.

Witch 3: *(to WITCH 2)* BAH! I thought you said they'd never be able to do the tasks? *(enter KELLY and MYSTERIA with shiny new mops)*

Kelly: Here you are. We've cleaned your broomsticks so thoroughly you won't recognise them.

Mysteria: And we've made them lead free so at least YOU won't pollute the atmosphere.

Witch 2: CURSES!

Witch 1: Don't worry sister dear. The boy hasn't come back with our toads. That task has proved impossible. *(enter PAUL without toads)*

Witch 3: Haven't you completed our task? Couldn't you scrub the warts off our toads?

Paul: Oh yes. I did that all right. Every single wart has gone.

Witch 2: So where are our toads?

Paul: Well, the moment the last wart was gone they all turned into princes.

Witch 1: Hopping Halloween and bouncing bats, I remember now! I turned them into toads about a hundred years ago.

Witch 2: Where are they now?

Paul: They're just wandering about your cave looking very confused.

Witch 3: Let's go get them girls. I fancy marrying a prince.

Witch 2: Yes we could get them to propose while they're still feeling confused. *(WITCHES make to exit)*

Kelly: No you don't. Not till you've told me where we can find the Kingdom of Darkness.

Witch 3: I've got a map here somewhere. *(pulls map from cauldron)* Here you are.

Sarah: Ugh! The map's got soup on it!

Witch 1: Never mind. Just lick it off and you'll see your way clear.

Paul: Let's get out of here. *(KELLY, SARAH, PAUL, MYSTERIA & FORTUNA exit)*

Witch 2: What are we waiting for girls? Let's get ourselves a Prince! *(The WITCHES run off yelling "Princey, Princey!")*

SCENE 6 *The Kingdom of Darkness.*

(Enter QUEEN of DARKNESS, DEAN & SHADOW 4)

Qu. Dark: So, those ugly old bats gave Kelly a map did they? Well I have a plan to stop her yet. *(enter KELLY, SARAH, PAUL, MYSTERIA and FORTUNA)*

Qu. Dark: Kelly!

Kelly: YOU! Give my brother back to me.

Qu. Dark: *(pulls DEAN forward from behind her back)* Here he is. Dean, Kelly wants you back.

Dean: Well I don't want to go. Bossy boots, big mouth, leave me alone.

Fortuna: Is he always like that?

Sarah: More or less.

Mysteria: Why is she bothering to get him back?

Dean: The Queen gives me LOTS of drinks. BIG drinks, not the little cups you always gave me. And I can have BIG slices of cake too.

Paul: What was in those drinks?

Kelly: Don't you want to see mum again?

Dean: No. I never loved her anyway.

Sarah: Now that's not true Dean.

Fortuna: I think he's under a spell.

Mysteria: Yes, no one could be THAT obnoxious.

Qu. Dark: But I don't want you to go away empty handed Kelly. Instead of your rotten little brother....

Dean: Squint eyes, flabby cheeks!

Qu. Dark: How would you like a perfect little sister? *(SHADOW 4 moves forward)*

Shadow 4: Hello Kelly. I'd love to be your sister. You see I'm pretty and sweet and cute. I'll never be rude to you. I'll be nice to all your friends. I'll help mummy round the house so you don't have to do anything.

Paul: She's a bit over the top isn't she?

Shadow 4: Look at me Kelly. Wouldn't a sister be nicer than a brother? Look at Dean and me together. *(she stands next to DEAN. DEAN sticks out his tongue at KELLY)* Brothers are far too much trouble. Choose me Kelly. Dean doesn't want to come with you, I do.

Fortuna: What are you going to do Kelly?

Mysteria: I know which one I'd choose.

Kelly: I came for my brother, I can't just swap him for someone else.

Shadow 4: Now you've made me cry. *(she cries)*

Dean: Cry baby! Cry baby!

Sarah: The poor thing. What shall we do Kelly?

Kelly: (to *QUEEN*) I want my brother back but I can't leave this little girl with you so I'll take her. But I'll be back for my brother.

Dean: Don't bother. (to *QUEEN*) Can I have another of those drinks?

Qu. Dark: Of course you can. (*QUEEN of DARKNESS and DEAN exit*)

Paul: (indicates *SHADOW 4*) What shall we do with her now?

Fortuna: Let's take her to the nearest village. They can look after her.

Kelly: And perhaps they can tell us how to break into the Queen of Darkness' lair.

Mysteria: You're not still trying to rescue that horrible little boy are you?

Shadow 4: The Queen has put a spell on him. The more drink he has the nastier he gets. (*enter VILLAGERS*)

Mayor: Good afternoon travellers, welcome to our village. I am the mayor. We do not get many visitors as we live in the shadow of the Queen of Darkness. Can we help you?

Sarah: We are looking for a way to break into the Queen's lair.

Villager 1: Oh no, you can't do that. It's far too dangerous.

Mayor: If you got in you would never come out again.

Kelly: I have to get my brother out. The Queen has kidnapped him.

Villager 2: The Queen has kidnapped many children. She has taken all the children from our village.

Paul: Why did you let her take ALL your children?

Mayor: We could not stop her. If we ever got cross with our children she would take them.

Villager 3: No matter how careful we were she was always listening to our every word.

Villager 4: My own dear daughter has been gone for three years.

Shadow 4: Mummy?

Villager 4: Who said that? (*SHADOW 4 comes forward*)

Shadow 4: Mummy, it's me.

Villager 4: My little girl! (*they embrace*)

Fortuna: Well, at least that's one happy ending.

Mayor: The Queen turns all the children into Shadows of Despair. They forget their families.

Shadow 4: That's what will happen to Dean.

Mysteria: There must be SOME way we can defeat her.

Villager 1: The only way is to surround her in happiness and laughter. But who can feel happy when they have lost their children?

Kelly: I have an idea. Can you villagers gather together things for a party? Food, balloons, that sort of thing?

Mayor: Certainly. (to *VILLAGERS*) Come on. (*MAYOR, VILLAGERS and SHADOW 4 exit*)

Kelly: If we can have a party then maybe the Shadows of Despair can be reminded of their past.

Fortuna: And Mysteria and I will do our circus act. Perhaps we can make them smile. *(Enter MAYOR, VILLAGERS and SHADOW 4 with party fare)*

Villager 2: Everything is here.

Kelly: Now we must all smile and look happy.

Sarah: *(to AUDIENCE)* Let's see everyone smiling.

Paul: Perhaps a few sweets will make you smile more. *(SARAH and PAUL throw or hand out sweets to children in the audience while the party food is being set out. Enter the SHADOWS of DESPAIR and DEAN)*

Shadow 1: What are you doing?

Mysteria: We're having a party.

Shadow 2: A party? I think I remember them.

Villager 3: Laura? Laura? Do you remember me?

Shadow 2: Mummy? *(they embrace)*

Mayor: It's beginning to work.

Mysteria: Sit down everyone and we'll do our show for you. *(MYSTERIA and FORTUNA perform their act. EVERYONE applauds)*

Shadow 3: That was fun. I like parties.

Shadow 1: I remember having a party for my birthday.

Mayor: Yes you did. We held a big party for you.

Shadow 1: Dad? *(MAYOR and SHADOW 1 embrace. All the SHADOWS begin recognising their parents amongst the VILLAGERS. Every SHADOW returns to a parent so only DEAN is left alone. Enter QUEEN of DARKNESS)*

Qu. Dark: What is going on? All the Shadows are disappearing from my castle.

Villager 1: They are returning to their homes throughout the country.

Qu. Dark: What are you doing here with my Shadows? Why are they smiling?

Villager 5: They are not YOUR Shadows. They are OUR children. They have come back to us.

Mayor: You have lost Queen of Darkness. You have been defeated.

Qu. Dark: *(grabs DEAN)* No. I still have one more.

Dean: Get off me! I remember everything now. I don't want to stay with you. I want my sister.

Kelly: Come here Dean. *(DEAN pulls free and runs to KELLY. DREAM MAKER enters)*

Qu. Dark: Dream Maker, I command you to do something.

Dream Maker: Oh no Queen of Darkness. This is MY dream and KELLY'S dream come true.

Qu. Dark: I am still Queen of this land. I shall make you all suffer.

Kelly: Dream Maker, can you make the people from my dream come back?

Dream Maker: Of course. Come in Dream Queen, Princess and Prince too.
You're needed here. (*enter DREAM QUEEN, PRINCESS and PRINCE*)

Dream Queen: It's that girl again!

Kelly: Will you all do me a favour?

Princess: So long as you don't want my Prince.

Kelly: No chance. Will you all take on this Kingdom and rule it as your own
bringing happiness and light to all?

Dream Queen: It will be our royal pleasure.

Qu. Dark: NOOOOOOOO! (*QUEEN of DARKNESS runs out. Everyone cheers*)

Mayor: At last our kingdom is free of the wicked Queen. We thank you.

Prince: Let's all continue this party at the Palace. (*MAYOR, VILLAGERS,
SHADOWS, DREAM MAKER, DREAM QUEEN, PRINCESS and PRINCE
all exit*)

Sarah: Now we've got Dean safely back we'd better get home.

Kelly: Look at the time! Mum will be home soon.

Fortuna: We'll leave you now.

Paul: What will you do?

Mysteria: I think we'll stay here. Now there is a new Queen it seems a nice place
to live.

Kelly: Thank you for your help. (*FORTUNA and MYSTERIA exit*) Come on then
Dean. Thanks Sarah, thanks Paul.

Paul: It makes a change from going to the Disco.

Sarah: See you at school tomorrow. (*KELLY, DEAN, PAUL and SARAH exit*)

SCENE 7 The House.

*(MUM enters from back of auditorium. She carries a pack of fish and chips and
has her umbrella up. DEAN and KELLY enter and start building a lego
model together)*

Mum: Wretched rain. I hope the fish and chips haven't gone soggy. Almost home
now. I do hope Kelly and Dean haven't been fighting. Those two just don't
seem to be able to get on. It's their age I suppose and things haven't been
easy for them. (*MUM comes up on stage and through "door". She comes up
to Dean and Kelly*) Well it is good to see you two being nice to each other.
Have there been any problems while I've been out? (*WHOLE CAST peep
round from all sides of stage and answer in unison with KELLY and DEAN*)

All: No mum, no problems. Everything's been just fine!

CURTAIN