

Act 1, Scene 2 – Magic Lake

[The lights go up and we see an ethereal landscape around a glistening lake. As smoke settles around the stage, Jerry walks in. He notices the audience and laughs an evil laugh.]

Jerry For far too long I've had to put up with those insignificant peasants and that stupid chief of theirs – all the while hiding my true nature. Do you have any idea how difficult it is to always be around a group of people that you have absolutely nothing in common with and having to constantly hide your disgust? Of course you don't you worthless plebs! The only person who can even begin to understand me is (*topical reference*). But soon my patience will be rewarded. Soon my plan will come to fruition and everyone will realise just how very, very evil I am!

You can boo as much as you like, but by the end of this panto I shall have power beyond my wildest dreams. More than enough to make me chief of the village and ruler of the entire clan! Who knows? I might even have enough power to take over the whole world! And you can bet that the first thing I'll do is outlaw all the things I don't like. No more sweets! No more ice cream! And the only luxury I'd allow is (*topical reference*). But most of all... the things I absolutely hate above everything else... are children. I hate every last one of them! And when I'm Chief of the Clan, I'll have them all locked up in some miserable and abandoned place – like (*topical reference*). But I'm not here to talk to you pathetic people – I'm here to unleash the second part of my evil master-plan!

I summon you, oh ancient creature of light,

Come and help me win this fight.

Fair and square I captured thee,

So now you are enslaved to me!

[Smoke rises and a loud farting sound is heard as Stinker Bell, a captured fairy, comes up from the trapdoor.]

Ugh... it smells so bad...

Stinker Yeah, yeah, we get it. I'm your slave, you're my master – well done.

Jerry Ladies and gentlemen, I give you one of the most powerful fairies in the woods. *[He starts coughing and fanning the air.]* A fairy whose magic is only superseded by her very bad odour... I give you: Stinker Bell.

Stinker Hi.

Jerry Now Stinker Bell, let me explain why I summoned you today...

Stinker No need Master. I know already. I'm a magical creature, remember? You have a very evil plan that you want to set in motion.

Jerry That's true – I do.

Stinker And you need my help to carry it out.

Jerry That's right – you are correct!

Stinker But before all that, you're going to let me go.

Jerry Yes, that's exactly what I'm going to... ha-ha, nice try. Now stop messing around and help me.

Stinker You know, you wouldn't need my help if you were a good wizard.

Jerry Well I'm not a good wizard. I'm a very, very evil wizard! *[He laughs an evil laugh and elicits more boos from the audience.]*

Stinker They don't seem to like you very much. Can't say I blame them. But that's not what I meant. I meant you're not good as in... you're kind of rubbish at magic. You're really, really bad at it. In fact, considering you're the Parliamentary Secretary for Magic, you really don't know that much about it.

Jerry So? I know more about magic than *(politician)* knows about *(subject)*.

Stinker Fair point. Ooh, is this the Magic Lake? I haven't been here in centuries.

Jerry Yes it is. Now, about my plan...

Stinker Why are we meeting here?

Jerry Because I need privacy, and no one from the village ever comes here.

Stinker Why?

Jerry Because they believe there's a terrible monster in there.

Stinker Ooh, what kind of monster?

Jerry *[losing patience]* I don't know! Now will you please shut up so I can tell you my plan? *[Stinker zips her mouth.]* I plan to get full control of the wild magic of the woods. This will allow me to be able to summon the Dark Spirits that haunt the mountains. Then, not only will I finally be a powerful wizard – but I'll be the most powerful wizard of all!

Stinker Yeah, about that... I don't know if you've heard about the Sorceress. Her job is exactly to stop things like that from happening.

Jerry Yes, and that's precisely why I'm going to get the Sorceress out of the picture.

Stinker Pfft, good luck.

Jerry I don't need luck – I have you. You're going to use your magic to create a powerful were-creature for me. Half man, half wolf, this monster will be big, bad and extremely cunning. Then I'll send him to find the Sorceress and she will be no more!

Stinker Yeah, aha, just one slight hitch in your great plan Master: the Sorceress's house is concealed by magic. Only those directly related to her can ever hope to find it.

Jerry I know that! That's why I've sent her granddaughter Little Red Riding Hood to go to her. The Wolf will find Little Red, follow her to the Sorceress's house, and destroy them both. Then I shall take over the Sorceress's power and I will be unstoppable! *[As Jerry laughs, the Sorceress enters. Since she looks like a batty old lady, he doesn't recognise her – although Stinker Bell does.]*

Sorceress Hello? Is anybody here?

Jerry Who are you and how dare you interrupt my evil laughter?

Sorceress Just a random old lady. I heard a noise and I came to see what it was. By the way, has anybody seen my teeth? I have no idea where I left them.

Jerry Look lady, we're in the middle of something here. Can you please go away?

Sorceress Really? And what is it you were in the middle of doing?

Jerry None of your business.

Sorceress Oh, but it is. You see, everything that happens in these woods is very much my business.

Jerry What? This woman is crazy. Stinker Bell, get rid of her.

Stinker Um, I can't.

Jerry What do you mean, you can't? Stop wasting time and get on with it! I need to find that Sorceress.

Stinker Not any more you don't.

Jerry Of course I do – it's part of my plan.

Sorceress What plan?

Jerry I told you: mind your own business!

Stinker Um, Master, you really shouldn't speak that way to the Sorceress.

Jerry I'll speak to her any way I... Sorceress?

Sorceress Yes?

Jerry You're the Sorceress?

Sorceress Last I checked.

Jerry But... you're old and crazy.

Sorceress And you're ugly, and stupid, and your fly's undone. Made you look. Now, Jerry Höfen: Parliamentary Secretary of Magic, are you going to tell me?

Jerry Ah... tell you what?

Sorceress *[disappointed]* Oh Jerry...

Song 3 – What’s Going On?

Sorceress HEY YEAH, YEAH,
HEY YEAH, YEAH
I SAID HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

[A group of Fairies appears and dances with her. Stinker Bell shrugs and joins in also.]

All AND I SAY: HEY YEAH, YEAH,
HEY YEAH, YEAH
I SAID HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

Sorceress EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS HERE CASTING SPELLS
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU I HEAR WARNING BELLS AND SEE
YOUR DETERMINATION

AND NOW I SEE YOU IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD
IT SEEMS YOU'RE UP TO NOTHING GOOD, JERRY
YOU HAD BETTER COME CLEAN

AND SO I'LL ASK YOU ONCE AND YOU'D BETTER COMPLY
COS I'LL KNOW IN A JIFF IF YOU DARED TO LIE
AND I'M – I'M ASKING...
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE UP TO?

AND NOW I'LL GRAB ON YOUR FACE WHICH IS A BIT TOO HIGH
SO I STAND ON MY TOES – LOOK YOU IN THE EYE
AND I SCREAM FROM THE TOP OF MY LUNGS
WHAT'S GOING ON?

All AND I SAY: HEY YEAH, YEAH,