

The Forest of Magic & Mystery: the Wizard's Daughter

Lisabeth Sewell McCann, Sparkle Stories

PRODUCTION NOTES: *This "play" is structured as a series of short performances – to be experienced by groups of people in the order given below. Each of the "stations" needs to be spaced apart – enough distance so that the action of one doesn't distract from another.*

This can be performed in woods or fields or parks, or even in the classrooms and along the halls of schools. Or it could be in different houses of a neighborhood. The path between the stations can be lit with jack--o--lanterns or luminarios.

At the performance's end, there should be a table that represents the "Festival" with edible treats for children to enjoy.

There is a lot of "singing" in this show – but this in no way needs to sound or seem "professional". The songs can be the simplest diddies – or even spoken as verses. As long as the performer is having fun, so will the children!

Below is the "script". The play is interactive, and so the language can be flexible and open to improvisation and embellishment. The logistical details, however, do need to be included and stressed – as they propel the story and the journey for our "travelers" or the children who have come to enjoy themselves.

RECOMMENDATIONS: *Have a volunteer parent "guide" go with each group to help direct, in case the children forget the clues or songs.*

Parents should join children on the walk. No unattended children.

At each station, a little Halloween "Goodie" can be handed out. We've used glass gems, little paper leaves, polished stones, small pinecones, etc.

CHARACTERS:

Father/Wizard
Mystical Fairy 1
Mystical Fairy 2
Mystical Fairy 3
Fool 1
Fool 2
Fairy King
Fairy Queen
Forrest Gnome
Young Daughter
Musical Fairy
Mischievous Fairies

SPARKLE HALLOWEEN EVENTS**SCENE 1: Wizard's Problem**

(The travelers gather around the Wizard and his fire.)

WIZARD

Good my travellers, it is the Eve of Halloween! Are you up to some mischief? Magic? Merriment?

Good. Then lend me your hand.

Tonight – this night of Hallow's Eve – there is to be a Festival in the Royal Yard – music, dancing, revelry, players and MAGIC.

But my daughter, my dear one,
Has flown off into the woods.

Her heart lies in the song of the birds and the running of the deer.
But tonight, it wasn't a fox that she followed into the woods, but the Fairies.
Yes, Fairies.

They have enchanted her ear with their music, and she has forgotten herself,
Forgotten her father,
And forgotten this Hallow's Eve.

What's more she is to be crowned Queen of Halloween!
And without the Queen,
the music will be muted,
the dancing will pale, the
players will lilt,
and the magic will be snuffed.
The hour is nearly come, and I am without her.
Will you help me to find her travellers?
Will you search hither and yon, and bring her back to me?
Bring her back, and bring back the magic for all!

If you are lucky, you too may hear the music of the fairies. Sweet
airs, delightful sounds, poetry and song.

But stay your course! Remember you your task! Lest
you want to spend this Hallow's Eve in the woods.

Follow the lights, good travellers.
They will carry you along the woodland path.

Go quick away and find my girl!
Remind her of her father, and the Royal Festival of Halloween!
And send her back to the Revelers who await her!

(The travelers leave the Wizard, and follow the lanterns to SCENE 2.)

SCENE 2: the Mystical Fairies

(The Travelers enter the woods, and find a beautiful corner where three Mystical Fairies are at work. They are brewing a potion over a fire. Thy sing as they add their ingredients.)

MYSTICALS

(singing)

Round about the fire go In
the blooming Basil throw
Lavender, Cinnamon, Yarrow and Thyme
Rosemary, Violet, Sweet Pea and Pine The
gracious herbs that love has got Boil
thou in this magic pot.

Boil and boil for sweetest peace May
love and laughter never cease!

(They chant or tone the same tune again, ending in the chorus.)

Boil and boil for sweetest peace May
love and laughter never cease!

(They continue to hum or tone quietly as they speak, in turn, to the children.)

MYSTICAL 1

My children, dear
what is it that brings you here
on this the most magical night of the year?

(The children answer. The Mysticals listen intently.)

MYSTICALS

(singing or toning)

Ahhhhhh..... *(as in "I understand")*

MYSTICAL 2

We have great powers at our command ----
so perhaps we can lend a hand.

MYSTICAL 3

Of all the gifts that we may boast, what
need they most?
(She begins to study the children intently.)

MYSTICAL 1

A charm of crimson pebble
to render them invisible?

MYSTICAL 2

A cinnamon and john's wort brew
To help them be fearless and help them be true.

MYSTICAL 3

Ah, sure I be,
What these young travelers need dearly is
a gift to help them see
the magic of the forest.

(The other Mysticals nod. Mystical 3 produces a small cloth pouch.)

In this basket are gifts of Pine for thee ----
that on this precious Hallow's eve
you may see
the magic that surrounds you.

(Mysticals pass out small pinecones to each of the children.)

MYSTICAL 2

May it aid you on your way
to find the wandering lass.

MYSTICAL 1

As you go, remember,
Follow the lights that shine in the grass.

MYSTICALS

(chanting)

Farewell, farewell, I bid thee farewell!
Farewell, farewell, I bid thee farewell!

MYSTICALS

(singing)

May Love glow within you. May
Wisdom shine through you. May
Strength always fill you.
May you be kind and true.

(The travelers head off to the Station Three.)

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SCENE THREE – the FOOLS

(Two Fools sit under a tree, singing a silly rhyme--game with stones. They repeat it rhythmically, as if to entertain themselves with the game -- like Rock Paper Scissors. Three Fairies hide in and around the trees.)

FOOL 1

A light.

FOOL 2

A watch.

FOOL 1

A mole.

FOOL 2

A match.

FOOL 1

A wall.

FOOL 2

A wager

FOOL 1

Done!

(They repeat the rhyming. As the Travelers approach, the Fools notice and greet them.)

FOOL 1

Travelers! Ho!

FOOL 2

Rest you a moment! Stay!

FOOL

Tell us of your travels!

FOOL 2

But first... *(He warns them gently.)*

Be not afeard;

this wood is full of noises, Sounds

and sweet airs,

that give delight and hurt not.

(The Fairies appear and make their music.)

FOOL 2

There it is!

(The music plays. The Fools look about, but can see nothing.)

FOOL 1

Where should this music be? In

the air or the earth?

(They listen. To the travelers:)

FOOL 1
Do you hear it?
Yes!

(The music stops and the Fairies disappear.)

FOOL 2
It sounds no more. 'Tis gone.

FOOL 1
Hence we have follow'd it,
Or it hath drawn us, rather.

FOOL 2
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments Will
hum about mine ears, and sometime voices ----

FOOL 1
But it is the tune of Nobody! FOOL

2
Nobody! Nobody is there!

(More Fairy Music, and mischievous fairies prancing between the trees. The travelers see the Fairies, however, and the Fairies know it. The Fairies wink and smile, and put fingers to their lips, as if to say shhhh.)

FOOL 1
It begins again.... Listen!

(Again they look and listen. But they can see no one. The Fairy music plays for a moment, and is gone.)

FOOL 1
Did you hear that? Of course!
But did you see ----?

FOOL 2
You saw?
And what was't?

FOOL 1 and 2
(listening to the children, and then repeating after whatever the travelers have said)

Fairies! No.
(Improvising in response to the travelers.)

Could it be? Etc.

(The music begins a third time... and everyone listens and looks. The travelers will likely point and holler, but the FOOLS will not see. The Fairies traipse off into the woods, and the music is gone.)

FOOL 1
It's gone! It's gone!
The Music has gone!

FOOL 2

May it leave us be!

We must find our way out of this Royal Wood ----
and back to the Wizard, for tonight's celebration
of Hallow's Eve!

FOOL 1

Wherever it is that you are going, Good
travelers,
You will need something to keep you
From floating off with the Fairy Music.

(He picks up pouches filled with polished stones.)

Take these. One, each of you. These
will bind you to the ground,
And keep you on your path.
(Repeat as necessary to make clear to the whole group.)

FOOL 2

Off you go!
Listen to the sweet airs of the night,
But follow not!
Keep your stones, and Stay
to the path of lights.
Farewell!

(The travelers go off to the Scene 4.)

SCENE FOUR – the Fairy Queen and Fairy King

(The travelers come upon the Fairy Queen and King, in their woodland Fairy Court. They are clearly having a bit of an argument which can be ad-libbed as the group approaches.)

FAIRY KING

My Queen, you are impossible!

FAIRY QUEEN

Nay, you are the impossible one!

But look –

We have visitors.

Travelling folk, it seems.

Human mortals.

(to the visitors)

Forgive, for we have fallen out.

The Fairy Queen and King Have
had a fight.

But he will make amends.

FAIRY KING

Not I--

FAIRY QUEEN

(holding up a hand to shush him)

Their brows are furrowed. They
are thick with thinking.

What search you here in this Fairy Land?

Why come you?

(The children answer – “the daughter of the Wizard has followed fairies into this wood!” etc. The Royals listen.)

FAIRY QUEEN

Ah, A wandering girl has followed fairies. My
good fairies, I'll warrant you.

Sweetest music do they make!

Enchanting even the stones upon the ground.

FAIRY KING

(interrupting)

They were mine, forsooth;

Enchanting young mortals is the King's business—

FAIRY QUEEN

(ignoring him)

Now now, how will you come to find this wandering girl?

Do you know your way through this wood?

I shall help.

For I have gift of sight.

FAIRY KING

And I --

For I have gift of knowing.

FAIRY QUEEN

(closing her eyes)

A wandering girl in Fairy Wood....
Yes there she is, upon the grass,
Listening to one who plays upon a pipe.

FAIRY KING

(closing his eyes)

And she is happy, yes, delighted With
a heart of such sweet tenderness. She
has a way with Fairy Folk.

FAIRY QUEEN

She is not far,
Just past the glade----

FAIRY KING

And o'er the hill—

FAIRY QUEEN & KING TOGETHER

You'll find her,
Sitting stone still,
And listening
To our fairies music.

(They open their eyes and regard each other delightedly, for they have come together in this final idea, and their quarrel is healed.)

FAIRY QUEEN & KING TOGETHER

Follow the fire--lit path.
That way. *(They point in unison.)*

FAIRY KING

Come, my queen, take hands with me,
Now thou and I are new in amity, All's
well.
Our powers we will share
To make the best for people everywhere.

FAIRY QUEEN

Come, my lord, and let us see that
hands together joined be. We the
globe can compass soon, Swifter
than the wandering moon.

FAIRY KING

(turning to the travelers)

Ah, thank you, good travelers for
Returning me to my Queen And
my Queen to me.

FAIRY QUEEN

Go and find this wandering one, whose
father longs to have her home.

And celebrate this wondrous Eve of
Halloween!

FAIRY KING

My sweet Queen and I wish you well!
Onward Go!

(The travelers follow the path to SCENE 5.)

SCENE 5: The Forest Gnome

(The Forest Gnome Sits on a mushroom or tree stump whittling a piece of wood into a whistle or flute type object. The travelers approach.)

GNOME

Oh welcome weary travelers, come sit and
rest with me awhile

You look as though you have been on a long journey!
Rest yourselves and tell me, do
you come in search of some
magical treasure? Or is it a
more noble quest at hand?

(The travelers respond to the GNOME with an answer that has to do with trying to find the girl.)

(If they don't say who is looking for her, he asks:)

Who is it that seeks her?

(If they don't say why she came, he asks:)

Why camest she here?

Ah, no doubt this girl is beloved by her father.
But it was for the love of the fairies music that she came. And
the fairies music is enchanting.

(The GNOME stands up to address them for he has the solution to her enchantment.)

You must sing a prettier song than they, if you are to recapture her heart. Let
us think –

we need a song of wandering
But returning to where one is loved best.

We need a song of home,
and of a child's love for their mother and father.

We need a song that will capture her heart!

A song that will make her long for home.

And we shall sing.

*(He sings **SHORT ROUND** –this can be any simple tune, ideally one that is already known to children. We used the tune to "Rose Rose Rose Rose, Will I Ever See Thee Wed". The idea is to simply enjoy the vowels in "Home" and for the children to learn the tune. The group leader can take up the lead here, and make sure the children know it.)*

Sing with me.

*Home Home Home Home
My heart, my home, my heart my home,
Home Home Home Home,
My heart, My home.*

(They sing together.)

Sing it with all the love in your heart!

(They sing and sing over and over so that the children come to know the song well.)

Ah such harmonies!
That will be the song that will recapture her, and
bring her back to where she is most loved.

Go now and find her.
Fill your heart with love and sing!

And surely she will go with you,
Back to where she belongs this Halloween eve.

Much luck to you, And
remember: LOVE!

(The travellers follow the lights through the woods to SCENE SIX, ideally continuing to sing.)

SCENE SIX: the ADVENTUROUS WIZARD's DAUGHTER

(The travelers approach to see a young girl listening to the magical music of a fairy. The travelers approach – but she is not aware of them, only the fairy and her music. As the travelers begin to sing to her -- and they may need to be prompted by the group leader to sing LOUDLY -- she turns to see them. The spell is broken, and she “wakes”. The fairy who has been playing, lowers her instrument and is still.)

DAUGHTER

I pray thee, gentle mortals, sing again!
Mine ear is much enamour'd of thy notes!

Such beautiful music you make!

(When they are done singing, she realizes:)

You remind me of my father!
Oh where is he? Where am I this night?
(She looks about, amazed.)
How have I come to be in these woods?

(The travelers answer “fairy music!” If the travelers don't say anything about fairies, she notices the fairy.)

The fairy music! Of course! The fairies!

(She turns to address the fairy, who then does an elaborate bow, and prances off into the woods. Then turns to the travelers.)

Those fairies! Such rich music they make! Such
enchantments!
I was silly to follow them in their dance, For
here it is evening!

But now, I remember myself! It is Halloween's eve! And my father, he is at his
work arranging for the Festivities!
And I am to be it's queen!

We must return, young travelers, and quickly
So that I may wear the sparkling crown of Halloween!

Do you know the way? Follow the lights my young ones, And
I will with you go!

(They begin to walk together, the girl leading.)

Come, come my friends! Let us catch all the fun!
(Together they exit the forest to the Hallow's Eve Festivities)

Goodbye my friends! Thank you! And goodbye! I
am off to find my father!
May this eve be full of magic and sweet music And
may you revel in the delights of Halloween!

(She dashes off to find her father, but returns to the woods to be ready for the next group. The children are led to a table of goodies where they can partake in the “Hallow's Eve Festival”.)

END OF PLAY