

Baillie's Babes In Toyland

Act one

SCENE 1

(The Toymaker's Shop)

SOUND CUE #1 - In

Musical No. 1 - *A Candle Burning Cheerfully*

Lights up on a trunk, closed, DR. Mother Hubbard's shoe is in shadows UC. As music begins, the Toymaker's wife, Victoria, enters from UR, eyes lighting up at first sight of the audience - as if she's been waiting for them and they've finally arrived. She is a happy, energetic woman of indefinite age, as magical people often are. She's wise, but a little goofy, and has a bit of a rough side to her. She bustles around, motioning toys on, moving into audience where possible to shake hands & pat heads.

Toys *(from off stage at first, enter singing, move to position on stage - Victoria joins in song to audience)*

Group #1 with Victoria

WELCOME!
WELCOME!

A CANDLE BURNING CHEERFULLY
TO GREET THE WEARY VISITOR
WHO TRAVELS TO OUR LAND
FROM FAR AWAY,
FROM FAR AWAY.

A CANDLE BURNING CHEERFULLY
TO GREET THE WEARY VISITOR
WHO TRAVELS TO OUR LAND
FROM FAR AWAY,
FROM FAR AWAY.

WELCOME!
WELCOME!
WELCOME!
WELCOME!

Group #2

WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME! WELCOME!

WELCOME!
WELCOME!
WELCOME!
FAR AWAY!
FAR AWAY!

WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME! WELCOME!
FAR AWAY!
FAR AWAY!

WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME!
WELCOME!

SOUND CUE #1 - Out

Victoria *(out of breath)* How delightful to see you all! *(primping toys)* Please excuse the toys - they're just returning from their rounds. Lately, I'm afraid, we've had to send them out at night to guard the town. Word has it Barnaby is up to no good again, so I decided it would be best not to take any chances. *(referring to toys)* Aren't they a marvel! *(pats pockets, confused)* Now what did I do with ...? Ah! *(slaps forehead, X's to trunk - opens)* Can't very well get started without *this*, can we? *(withdraws folding stool from trunk, opens it & places it on floor)* Good. *(withdraws book, closes trunk, sits on stool with book in lap)* Good, good. I tell you, I don't trust that Barnaby Smoot any further than I can throw him, *(somewhat mischievously)* but enough about Barnaby ... watch this. *(turns to toys who, by now, have formed their line or lines across the stage)* "Tennnn hut! *(toys stomp right-left, snap to attention, Victoria giggles gleefully)* Sometimes I do this for hours on end. Tennnn hut! *(same soldier routine, then - speaking to audience)* One more time - everybody with me, "Tennnn hut" on the count of three, OK? Here we go ... one, two, three ...

Barnaby *(entering from back of house with Gonzorgo - they proceed to the stage)* Keep quiet, for pity sake! How's anybody supposed to concentrate with those tin cans pounding the floor?

Victoria Barnaby Smoot, happy and smiling as always. Look around you, Barnaby, these good people are here to hear the story. *(raises book, patting it with one hand)*

Barnaby Why? Haven't they got anything better to do?

Victoria What if they have?

Barnaby They ought to be doing it, right Gonzorgo?

Gonzorgo (*looking around, smiling & nodding "No."*) Gonzorgo.

Victoria Hello, Gonzorgo! Has Barnaby been treating you well?

Gonzorgo (*sbrugging*) Gonzorgo.

Barnaby Leave him out of this.

Victoria Why?

Barnaby Because Gonzorgo doesn't know how to talk.

Gonzorgo (*downcast*) Gonzorgo.

Victoria And what do you call that?

Barnaby I call *that* his *name*, which is all he ever says, which is why *I* say that he doesn't know how to *talk*.

Victoria Maybe *you* don't know how to *listen*, isn't that right, Gonzorgo?

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo. (*vindicated, Barnaby snorts & crosses arms smugly*)

Victoria (*beat - speaks earnestly to Gonzorgo*) Well, if you say so, but I do believe that you are too patient with him.

Barnaby What?! Gonzorgo, I ...

Gonzorgo (*to Victoria*) Gonzorgo.

Victoria (*laughing*) Oh, ho! True enough! True enough! He *is that*, isn't he.

Barnaby *What* am I?

Victoria Ask him.

Barnaby Gonzorgo?

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Victoria (*clapping, delighted with Gonzorgo's comeback*) Touche! Perhaps we should change the subject, Barnaby. You're a bit out of your league, I believe.

Barnaby I'm a bit out of *patience*, is what I am! Come along,. (*exiting L, speaking over shoulder*) Get on with your story, woman, and keep it *quiet* or I'll have no choice but ...

Victoria Tennnn hut! (*toys stomp right-left*)

Barnaby I *said* keep it ...

Victoria Patrolll harch! (*Barnaby ad libs attempts to override ensuing call & response*)

Lead Toy (*facing left*) I don't know but I declare

Others (*facing left*) I don't know but I declare

Lead Toy (*marching*) Barnaby ain't got no hair

Others (*marching*) Barnaby ain't got no hair

(*Toys continue cadence as necessary to get to back of house, meanwhile Barnaby has exited with Gonzorgo, probably crying "That's slander!" or "You'll be hearing from my lawyer" en route*)

Lead Toy Smell jus' like a sweaty dog

Others Smell jus' like a sweaty dog

Lead Toy Live inside a hollow log

Others Live inside a hollow log

Lead Toy Sound off, etc., etc. (*until gone*)
Victoria (*opens book*) While the toys take up their posts around the city, we may begin our story.

SCENE 2

(*A Street In Toyland*)

SOUND CUE #2 (story music) - In/fade out under dialogue

A pleasant, sunny day. Not too warm, not too cool - like every day in Toyland. (*places book on stool, withdraws messenger cap & clipboard from apron pocket*) Barnaby Smoot was about to get some very bad news. (*Barnaby enters with Gonzorgo*) Are you Barnaby Smoot of Number One Lonely Lane, Toyland?

Barnaby What if I am?

Victoria Letter for you, sir. Please sign here.

Barnaby I can't think of anyone in the whole world who'd want to write me a letter ... unless ... yes! Give me that! (*hurridly signs, hands clipboard back to Victoria who withdraws a letter from her apron with one hand while holding the other out to Barnaby*) Well?

Victoria Twenty-five cents, sir, postage due.

Barnaby This is outrageous! Gonzorgo, give the man a quarter. (*Gonzorgo does*)

Victoria (*taking quarter, hands Gonzorgo the letter*) Thank you, sir. Good day.

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Barnaby (*snatching letter from Gonzorgo*) Give me that! (*as Barnaby reads, Victoria returns messenger cap & clipboard to apron pocket, crosses to trunk & withdraws farmer hat, hoe & miniature pumpkin - puts on hat, places pumpkin on ground & begins to hoe around it*) "This is to inform you that your nephew, Alan, is missing. He was last seen sailing away from Port Chumley on a cargo ship. The ship is missing, too. We believe that the ship, the crew and your nephew all went down at sea. Sincerely, Port Chumley Port Authority." (*smiling broadly*) What a shame. (*re-reads letter, smiling, in silence as Toymaker speaks - Gonzorgo reads over Barnaby's shoulder*)

Victoria (*hoeing in the pumpkin patch, speaks to audience*) Now, some people thought that Uncle Barnaby had put poor Alan on that cargo ship *knowing* that it would sink.

Barnaby (*clucking over the letter*) What a terrible, terrible shame.

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Barnaby Be quiet. (*crosses w/ Gonzorgo toward Victoria*)

Victoria (*as Farmer Brown*) Good morning, Gonzorgo. Pleasant day we're having.

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Victoria I'll have to remember that.

Barnaby Remember what?

Victoria You seem happy today, Barnaby. Did the messenger bring especially good news?

Barnaby (*unsuccessfully attempting grief*) Uh ... no, Farmer Brown. The messenger brought especially bad news. My nephew is dead.

Victoria Oh, my! Then you must be *upset*. And you hide it so well. (*picks up pumpkin, offers it to Barnaby*) Care for a very small pumpkin?

Barnaby (*about to explode*) A very sm...?! (*regains composure*) Why, yes, Farmer Brown, a very small pumpkin is *exactly* what I need to console me in my hour of grief. (*aside to Gonzorgo, handing him the pumpkin*) Here, throw this thing away. (*Gonzorgo pockets the pumpkin instead*) Sorry to run, but ...

Victoria What will you do now, Barnaby?

Barnaby (*stopping*) I don't know, the usual stuff one does ... mope, cry, ...

Victoria What about the money?

Barnaby Money?

Victoria Rumor has it Alan had a *great deal* of money and, since you're his only surviving relative, well ... Alan's death isn't exactly *bad news*, is it? (*big wink*) Not (*bigger wink*) *monetarily*.

Barnaby (*aside*) Pumpkin farmers certainly do wink a lot. (*to Victoria*) How'd you come by this information?

Victoria Word gets around.

Barnaby So it does, so it does. (*beat*) Very well, Farmer Brown, Alan *was* quite wealthy and, since I *am* his only surviving heir, I don't suppose his death *is* entirely bad news. (*tipping hat*) Glad we had this chat. (*starts to leave*)

Victoria Good day, Barnaby. Oh, Barnaby?

Barnaby (*stops, turns*) What is it?

Victoria What will you do about Alan's sweetheart?

Barnaby Sweetheart?

Victoria Contrary Mary. I hear you're a little (*wink*) sweet on her yourself and, now that Alan's taken care of, I suppose you'll be (*big wink*) giving her a call, eh?

Barnaby Stop *winking* at me, for the love of Bob, and mind your own business! (*exits with Gonzorgo*)

SCENE 3

(*At Mother Hubbard's Shoe*)

Victoria (*putting away Farmer Brown paraphernalia, moves stool DC*) The two things Barnaby wanted most in the whole world were Alan's money and (*gestures to side entrance, Mary enters, singing, carrying a basket of flowers*) Alan's sweetheart, the beautiful Contrary Mary, oldest daughter of Old Mother Hubbard - the woman who lived in a shoe, you remember (*indicates shoe UC*). Barnaby wanted to marry Mary, and might have already were it not for one small problem. (*exits*)

Mary (*speaking over heads of audience*) Alan, Alan, wherefore art thou, Alan? Oh, to hold your hand again and kiss your fuzzy cheek. Ah, me!

Barnaby (*entering with Gonzorgo*) Oh, Mary, good - you're sitting down. I've just received some bad news.

Mary (*smugly*) Then keep it to yourself, if you please. (*smiling*) Good day, Gonzorgo.

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Mary (*flattered*) Do you really think so? (*Gonzorgo nods, "Yes."*)

Barnaby Think what?

Mary Please go away, Barnaby.

Barnaby The news I received concerns *you*, Mary. Actually, it concerns *Alan*.

Mary Alan?

Barnaby Yes, Alan. It seems that he is ...

Mary Returning today?

Barnaby No, I ...

Mary My one true love?

Barnaby No, he ...

Mary The man whom I will someday marry?

Barnaby No!

Mary What then?

Barnaby Alan is dead!

SOUND CUE # 3 (Melodramatic chords) - In/Out

- Mary** Dead?
- Barnaby** Drowned.
- Mary** Drowned?
- Barnaby** Sleeping with the oysters.
- Mary** *(sitting on stool, stunned)* I ... I don't believe it.`
- Barnaby** Oh, but you must believe it. It's true.
- Mary** You did this, you hideous creature! You did this to Alan so that you could marry me and take his money! I hate you, I hate you, I hate ...
- Barnaby** Now, now, don't be bitter, my lovely one. It's bad for the complexion.
- Mary** What have you done to my Alan, Barnaby? Tell me!
- Barnaby** *(exploding)* I haven't done anything to him! *(Mary is silent, Barnaby regains composure)* But I consider it my duty to take care of you now that he's gone. Gonzorgo, the ring. *(Gonzorgo rummages through his pockets, removing the pumpkin which he places in Barnaby's hand)* No, no, no! I told you to throw that thing away. The ring! The ring! *(Gonzorgo rummages again, hands it to Barnaby, who kneels before Mary)* Contrary Mary Hubbard, will you be my wife?
- Mary** *(rising)* When pigs fly!
- Barnaby** But, Mary, I ...
- Mary** Barnaby Smoot, I wouldn't marry you if you were the last man on earth.
- Barnaby** Be reasonable Mary. You live in a shoe ... a *shoe*, for the love of Mike, and with *thirteen other children!* What kind of life is that?

SOUND CUE #4 - In

Musical No. 2 - I'll Foreclose On Your Mother's Shoe

(sung to the tune of A Bicycle Built for Two)

MARY, MARY, WHAT HAVE I GOT TO DO?
THOUGH I'M SCARY, I AM IN LOVE WITH YOU.
AND THOUGH I'M NOT SWEET OR HANDSOME,
I'M WORTH A KINGLY RANSOM,
BUT YOU RESIST AND I INSIST
I'LL FORECLOSE ON YOUR MOTHER'S SHOE
(spoken) Mary, be reasonable, let's not bicker about ...

Mary BARNEY, BARNEY, STUBBORN AND MISERLY,
YOU WILL NEVER MARRY THE LIKES OF ME.
I'D RATHER EAT BUGS AND ONIONS
AND SCALY DRAGON BUNIONS

All *(windows above Shoe pop open & Hubbard children join Mary)*
THAN BE A SMOOT, SO KEEP YOUR LOOT
AND GO BARK UP ANOTHER TREE. *(windows snap shut)*

Barnaby MARY, MARY, PITY A POOR OLD MAN,
YOU HAVE HURT ME LIKE NO ONE OTHER CAN.
I OFFER YOU PRICELESS PLEASURE,
AND TREASURE BEYOND MEASURE,
SO CALL ME DENSE, BUT WHERE'S THE SENSE
IN REFUSING TO TAKE MY HAND?
(spoken) Think of your family, Mary, think of yourself!

Mary BARNEY, BARNEY, WHEN WILL YOU EVER LEARN?
I DON'T CARE IF MONEY YOU HAVE TO BURN.

IF ALAN IS REALLY MISSING,
IT'S NO ONE I'LL BE KISSING.

All *(with Hubbard children as before)*
SO HIT THE ROAD, YOU HORNY TOAD,
AND DON'T BOTHER ME TO RETURN. *(windows snap shut)*

SOUND CUE #4 - Out

Mary I don't want your money, you hideous old man. Please go away!

Barnaby Mary, all I want is to make you happy. Let me make you happy, Mary, let me try!

Mary It would make me *very* happy if you would go away.

Barnaby I won't.

Mary Then I will! *(exits)*

Barnaby Mary! Mary, come back! *(falls to knees)* Please, Mary! *(Gonzorgo offers Barnaby the pumpkin)* Throw that confounded pumpkin away! *(stands)* Come with me, Gonzorgo, I must think of a way to convince Mary that I am the man she must marry. *(exeunt)*

SCENE 4

(Near Toyland Harbor)

Victoria *(entering in newspaper boy outfit, carrying newspapers)* So far as anyone knew, poor Alan was sleeping with the oysters. It was a sad day in Toyland and, since sad days are few and far between here, they're very big news. *(holds up copy of "The Toyland Tattler")* Extra! Extra! Sad day in Toyland! Alan sleeping with the oysters! Barnaby Smoot proposes to Contrary Mary! Extra! Extra!

Barnaby *(entering with Gonzorgo)* Yes, the problem with Mary is she doesn't know the value of ...

Victoria Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Barnaby Smoot inherits all of Alan's money! Proposes to Alan's sweetheart, Contrary Mary! Read all about it!

Barnaby You there, paper boy, I'll take one of those.

Victoria Twenty-five cents, sir.

Barnaby For a copy of *The Toyland Tattler*? That's outrageous! I ... Say, haven't I seen you someplace before?

Victoria I don't think so, sir. Twenty-five cents, please.

Barnaby So you've said. Gonzorgo, give the boy a quarter and be quick about it.

Gonzorgo *(handing Victoria a quarter)* Gonzorgo.

Victoria *(exchanging Gonzorgo's quarter for a paper)* You don't say?

Barnaby *(snatching paper from Gonzorgo, speaking to Victoria)* Stop that!

Victoria Stop what?

Barnaby Never mind. Good day!

Victoria *(tipping hat)* Thank you. *(returns to trunk, removes paper boy attire, changes to pirate attire)*

Barnaby Ho, ho! Barnaby Smoot Proposes to Contrary Mary! I made the front page! *(reading paper)* "It's only a matter of time until she gives in," says Barnaby Smoot. Pretty quotable stuff, eh, Gonzorgo?

Victoria *(a pirate now)* Barnaby Smoot!

Barnaby What the ...? Where did you come from?

Victoria I come from the sea. Be ye Barnaby Smoot, most hated man in all of Toyland?

Barnaby What if I am?

Victoria Be ye Barnaby Smoot who sent Alan off to drown on a leaky cargo ship so that he might take the poor lad's money and marry his sweetheart?

Barnaby All right, Pirate, my name is Barnaby Smoot! What's it to *you*?

Victoria I come to give you a message from the captain of the cargo ship that sank with your nephew, Alan.

Barnaby *(beat)* Well?

Victoria First ye must cross me palm with silver.

Barnaby What the...? Oh, for the love of Bob - Gornzorgo! Give the pirate a quarter. *(out, as Gonzorgo complies)*
This is turning into a bad joke.

Victoria *(to Gonzorgo)* Thank ye.

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Barnaby All right! you have your quarter, pirate, now what's the message?

Victoria Alan is not dead.

Barnaby What?! That's impossible.

Victoria Impossible or not, matey, the lad's alive and well and he's on his way here.

Barnaby This is terrible. Why, if Alan is ... *(to Victoria)* Haven't I seen you some place before?

Victoria Not likely, me bucko. No self-respectin' pirate would live in a place called Toyland. *(exits)*

Barnaby Blast! If Mary finds out that Alan is alive, she'll never marry me in a million years!

SOUND CUE #5

(Alan's entrance herald) - In/out

Kringle *(running on, sees Alan entering from back of house)* It's true! It's true! *(calling off)* Come on everybody, Alan is alive! *(townspeople rush on immediately, very animated)*

Alan *(entering from back)* Yes, friends, it is I. Rejoice and be glad!

All Hooray!

Alan That's the spirit! *(as townspeople gather)* Neither sharks nor gale nor watery grave could keep me from the town I love! Good people of Toyland, thank you for this heart-warming welcome!

Krouton *(running up to Alan)* Me and the boys have decided that we want to be just like you when we grow up, haven't we boys?

Boys And how!

Alan You are too kind.

Krinolin *(running up to Alan with pillow)* Will you sign my pillow, Alan? *(girls are giggling in background)*

Alan I'd be happy to sign your pillow, young lady - and what is your name?

Krinolin Krinolin.

Alan A beautiful name! *(reading as he writes)* "To Krinolin, with fondest regards. Alan." *(returns pillow)*

Krinolin *(stares open-mouthed at pillow, then screams to girls)* He signed my pillow! *(girls squeal, crowding around Krinolin to get a glimpse of the pillow)*

Barnaby *(aside)* I think I'm going to be sick.

Mayor *(Mayor of Toyland steps up to Alan who, by now, is DC)* Alan, it gives me great pleasure to award you Toyland's highest honor ("pinning" velcro-backed "medal" on Alan) - The Legion of Unexpected Return. Congratulations, my boy. *(shakes Alan's hand, all applaud)*

Alan Thank you, thank you all. I am deeply moved by this outpouring of affection but, at the risk of seeming ungrateful, it is Contrary Mary whose company I most desire at this moment.

SOUND CUE #6 - In

No. 3 - Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY,
I HAVE COME BACK TO YOU!
NO LONGER SWIMMING IN THE SEA!
REJOICE AND COME TO ME,
AND SIT UPON MY KNEE!
MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY,
WE'LL SPREAD OUR WINGS AND FLY!

Mayor A NEW DAWN IS BREAKING!
Kringle THE WORLD IS AWAKING!
All AND THE BIRDS ARE SINGING IN THE SKY!
Alan AND UNCLE BARNEY'S HERE (*arm over Barnaby's shoulder*)
TO GIVE A ROUSING CHEER!
Barnaby (*deadpan*) Hooray.

Barnaby

Alan I'M IN A HURRY!
All HE'S IN A HURRY!
Alan I HAVE MUCH TO DO!
I'M IN A FLURRY!
I GOTTA GO, BOYS!
All A-HEAVE-A-HO, BOYS!
Alan, All I'M (HE'S) GONNA HURRY, HURRY
ALL DAY LONG!

WHAT'S THE HURRY?
WHAT'S THE HURRY?
YOU DO?
HE'S IN A FLURRY.
THIS NOISE

ANNOYS.

HE'S GONNA HURRY, HURRY
ALL DAY LONG!

Barnaby

Alan I'M IN A HURRY!
All HE'S IN A HURRY!
Alan I HAVE MUCH TO DO!
I'M IN A FLURRY!
I GOTTA GO, BOYS!
All A-HEAVE-A-HO, BOYS!
Alan, All I'M (HE'S) GONNA HURRY, HURRY
ALL DAY LONG!

WHAT'S THE HURRY?
WHAT'S THE HURRY?
YOU DO?
HE'S IN A FLURRY.
THIS NOISE

ANNOYS.

HE'S GONNA HURRY, HURRY
ALL DAY LONG!

SOUND CUE #6 - Out

Mayor Let us return to town and prepare a feast in honor of Alan! (*all cheer as they exit, patting Alan's back, shaking his hand, etc. as they pass by him - they are gone*)
Alan It's great to be back, Uncle Barnaby. And Gonzorgo! How on earth have you been?
Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.
Alan Glad to hear it! (*looking around*) How I missed this place and all the good people who live here. Did you miss me, Uncle?
Barnaby Terribly. Look, why aren't you sleeping with the oysters? It says right here, (*holding out newspaper*) "Alan sleeping with the oysters."
Alan I was rescued by a school of dolphins who happened by just as the ship went down.
Barnaby I don't believe it.
Alan Believe it, uncle, and believe also that today I shall ask Contrary Mary to be my bride!
Barnaby It pains me to tell you this, Alan, but you cannot ask Mary to be your bride.

Alan *(laughs)* Why on earth not?

Barnaby Because, uh ... because she isn't here.

Alan Of course she isn't *here*, uncle. She is at home, thinking only of me, and it is there that I shall now go to ask her to be my bride! Farewell! *(starts to go)*

Barnaby She isn't there, either.

Alan *(stops, turns)* Well, if she isn't here and she isn't there, where is she, uncle?

Barnaby She's ... *(gets an idea)* in the Black Widow Forest

SOUND CUE #7 (fright chords) - In/out

Alan The Black Widow Forest?!

Barnaby Chock-full of terrifying, blood-thirsty black widow spiders! Too bad there's nobody around who's brave enough to rescue her, eh?

Alan I will go to the Black Widow Forest and I will not return until I have found Mary!

Barnaby You, Alan? You? Are you sure? *(Alan nods vigorously, Barnaby claps him on the back)* What a brave lad!

Alan Indeed I am! Wish me luck, Uncle! *(starts off, stops)* Oh, Uncle!

Barnaby What is it?

Alan I don't know the way.

Barnaby Oh, for the love of ...

Victoria *(wearing dark glasses & bat, carries cane in one hand, tin cup in the other & has tray full of maps suspended from neck by a strap - she is "blind")* Maps of the Black Widow Forest! You can't see the trees for the forest without a map! Maps! Get your maps!

Barnaby You there, map seller, I need a map.

Victoria Very good, sir. That'll be ...

Barnaby Let me guess. Twenty-five cents, right?

Victoria Yes, sir. Very good, sir.

Barnaby *(waves hand in front of Victoria's face, no response, speaks to Gonzorgo)* I'll take care of this one. *(takes penny from pocket, chuckling)* Here you are, my good fellow. *(drops penny in cup)* A quarter for you and a ... *(reaches for map, but Victoria moves maps out of his reach)*

Victoria You put a penny in my cup, sir. The price of a map is twenty-five cents.

Barnaby Of all the ridic... *(Gonzorgo drops quarter in cup)*

Victoria *(handing map to Gonzorgo)* Thank you, sir. Have a nice a day. *(exits)*

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Barnaby *(snatches map from Gonzorgo)* Give me that! *(hands it to Alan)* Now hurry, boy! It's almost sundown!

Alan Thank you uncle! *(starts out, stops)* You know, Uncle, if I were a suspicious man, I'd think that... *(winning smile)* but I am *not* a suspicious man, am I? Farewell! I'll repay you when I return. *(exit)*

Barnaby *(to Gonzorgo)* I want you to follow him as far as the edge of the forest. Make sure he goes *into* the forest, and then report back to me. *(Gonzorgo exits in Alan's direction, Barnaby pulls out pocket watch)* Oh, my! It's time for evening tea! How time does fly when one is having fun!

Victoria *(enters wearing tall chef's hat, a moustache & apron)* Tea biscuits for sale! Freshly baked tea biscuits!

Barnaby Not again.

Victoria You there, my friend. Could I interest you in a freshly baked raspberry tea biscuit? Only...

Barnaby Twenty-five cents.

Victoria How did you know?

Barnaby Forget it!

Mary *(entering from back of house)* My, but I'm hungry! A raspberry tea biscuit would taste awfully good right about now. *(she saunters toward stage, preening her flower basket - Victoria holds out palm, smiling knowingly)*

Barnaby *(glowers at Victoria, glances toward Mary - he's between a rock and a hard place)* Blast! *(digs into pocket, finds quarter, hands it to Victoria)* There! My last quarter.

Victoria *(hands Barnaby a small pastry box)* It has been a pleasure serving you. Bon appetit!

Barnaby What's that supposed to mean?

Mary *(on stage, looks up from basket for the first time)* Barnaby!

Barnaby *(arms spread in welcome)* Mary!

Mary *(walking away)* I didn't recognize you from the distance. If I had, I would not have come this far.

Barnaby Wait, Mary! I love you! Here. *(holding out box)* I bought you this raspberry tea biscuit.

Mary *(stops, tempted)* Raspberry tea biscuit?

Barnaby They're your favorite.

Mary Well, *(turns)* I don't suppose it would hurt to try it, just to be polite. *(snatches box from Barnaby)*

Barnaby I knew they were your favorite, so I ...

Mary *(looking inside box)* Barnaby Smoot! Is this your idea of a joke? *(holding out box to Barnaby)* This box is empty! *(throws down box, begins to exit)*

Barnaby But ... *(picks up box, looks in, looks back in direction of Victoria's exit)* But I ... Mary, come back! *(following Mary)* Mary! I had no idea the box was empty! I spent my last quarter!

Victoria *(entering as newspaper boy again)* Extra! Extra! Alan returns! Goes directly to Black Widow Forest to look for Mary! Extra! Extra! *(Mary stops, interested)*

Barnaby *(running back to center stage)* What the ...? How the ...? This isn't possible. I was just ...

Victoria Barnaby Smoot tells Alan to go to Black Widow Forest to look for sweetheart! Extra! Extra!

Barnaby Give me one of those!

Victoria That'll be twenty-five cents, sir.

Barnaby I *spent* my last quarter on your confounded raspberry tea biscuits ... tea biscuit *box*, that is, and ...

Victoria I sell papers, sir, not tea biscuits. You must have me confused with somebody else. Extra! Extra!

Mary Here, my good man, here's a quarter. May I have a paper, please?

Victoria Why, certainly, miss. Please, take one with my compliments. No charge.

Barnaby What?!

Mary Be quiet, Barnaby, I'm trying to read.

Barnaby This is intolerable!

Mary Silence! *(Barnaby fumes in silence, then tries to read over her shoulder)* It says here "Barnaby Smoot of Number One Lonely Lane, Toyland, bought a map of the Black Widow Forest and gave the map to Alan. He told Alan that his sweetheart, Contrary Mary" - *(big smile)* - "had gone there and that he should go after her at once. Alan was last seen entering the Black Widow Forest and has not been heard from since." Is this true, Barnaby?

Barnaby *(downcast, knows he's in trouble)* I don't know.

Mary Did you or did you not tell Alan that I was lost in the Black Widow Forest?

Barnaby *(as before)* I suppose so.

Mary (*crowding Barnaby, who retreats*) Of all the horrible, despicable things! You lied to Alan and you lied to me! And now Alan has gone to his death ... again!

Barnaby Please, Mary, I only ...

Mary Be quiet! I am going to find Alan and neither you nor anybody else is going to stop me! (*exits*)

Barnaby Mary! You'll be killed! (*running after her, ad libs*) Mary, please! Forget Alan! I love you, Mary! Mary! (*he is gone*)

Victoria (*entering as herself*) And so Mary and Alan and Barnaby and Gonzorgo went running off to certain death. Poor Alan. Poor Mary. And, for that matter, poor Barnaby.

INTERMISSION NOTE

If intermission is taken, it should be taken here, with Victoria's line continuing as follows:

(taking out watch) Oh, my! It really *is* time for tea! Well, we'll just have to wait a few minutes before we go to the Black Widow Forest. *(exiting, to herself)* Just enough time to bake a few tea biscuits myself. *(to audience)* Hurry! Go! Quickly! *(she is gone)*

When intermission is concluded, "A Candle Burning Cheerfully" might be reprised - either sung or played - after which Victoria returns, speaking as follows:

Welcome, my friends, it is time to finish our story! (*ad libs as stragglers seat themselves*) That's it, find your seats and be comfortable. Very good. Now, then, you remember that Mary and Alan and Barnaby - and possibly Gonzorgo - had run off to the Black Widow Forest. We now join Alan as he makes a most surprising discovery.

act two

SCENE 1

(The Black Widow Forest)

SOUND CUE #8 (spooky intro/Sugarplum Spider dance) - In

Alan (*entering*) Oh, Mary, where are you? The thought of you lost in this frightening place makes me want to ... to stomp my foot! (*does so*) There, I've done it! (*startled by red special on spider den, UC, he drops his map and hides himself DL as spiders emerge and dance begins*)

The Spiders, dressed in black w/ red hourglass patterns somewhere on their torsos and, possibly, antennae caps and/or extra arms, appear. They dance.

SOUND CUE #8 - Out

Spiders (*assuming cheerleading poses*) S! P! I! D! E! R! S! Gooooooooo, spiders! Yaaaa! (*celebrate*)

Alan (*aside*) How strange and terrible they are. But I will not run away. (*standing to confront spiders*) Stop, spiders! (*they all stop and look at Alan*) Though you may kill me, I must find my sweetheart, Contrary Mary! What have you done with her?

Webster (*to other spiders, referring to Alan*) What is it?

Egmont I don't know

Both (*looking at each other*) Run away!

Spiders (*dispersing into wings*) Ahhhhhhhhhhh!

Alan Ha! they are cowards! I have won the day!

SOUND CUE #9 (thunder) - In/out

Lights flicker during thunder, smoke shoots out of spider cave, Victoria as Faerie Queen appears.

Uh oh.

Victoria Who are you and what are you doing in my forest?

Alan My name is Alan and I ... I was defending my life.

Victoria Defending your life? Was someone trying to kill you?

Alan Why, yes! I was looking for my sweetheart, Contrary Mary, when ...

Victoria How romantic!

Alan Thank you. ...when a band of spiders leapt upon me. I barely escaped with my life.

Victoria Spiders?

Alan Yes.

Victoria Leapt upon you?

Alan Yes. It was terrible.

Victoria I can't imagine why they would leap upon *anyone*, though I'm certain they'll apologize if they did. (*claps hands, calling off*) Children! Children, come here! (*spiders re-enter cautiously*) Come along, children, there's nothing to be afraid of. That's it. There, now. Have you ever seen this man before?

Spiders Yes, your majesty.

Alan Your *majesty*?

Victoria Yes, Mr. Alan. I am the Queen of the Forest.

Alan (*dropping to one knee*) Your majesty! I am honored.

Victoria Oh, don't be silly. (*waves Alan up - he stands rather awkwardly as she continues to spiders*) When you saw this gentlemen, did you leap upon him?

Spiders No, your majesty.

Webster We ran away from him, your majesty.

Victoria Why?

Egmont He yelled at us, your majesty.

Victoria Oh, my! Did you yell at them, Mr. Alan?

Alan Well, yes, I ...

Victoria Whatever for?

Alan Well, they ... they would have killed me if ...

Victoria Killed you?

Alan Yes! Everyone knows about the terrifying, blood-thirsty spiders of the Black Widow Forest and ...

Victoria Oh, ho, ho, ho, ho! These are *Sugarplum* Spiders, Mr. Alan. And, although they might get a little testy when they haven't had their nap, I wouldn't call them terrifying in the least.

Alan Or blood-thirsty?

Victoria No, no, heavens no! Sugarplum spiders are the kindest, gentlest creatures in the forest. They sing and play the day away with never a care or worry. (*littlest spider approaches Alan with a flower*)

Nibbles (*offering Alan the flower*) Welcome to the forest, Mr. Alan.

Alan Why, ... why thank you. (*takes flower, Nibbles returns to the fold*)

Victoria You see, Mr. Alan? There is nothing to fear.

SOUND CUE #10 - In

Musical No. 4 - *The Sugarplum Spider Song*

Alan Yes, I do see. I see that I owe you all an apology.

Nibbles We forgive you, Mr. Alan.

Victoria *(singing as she walks among the spiders)*

“PLEASE COME TO MY PARLOUR,” SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY,
“AND WE WILL PRACTICE POETRY,
AND DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE,
AND BAKE A CHERRY PIE!

THOUGH SOME WOULD RUN AWAY,
I’M ASKING YOU TO STAY.
I HAVEN’T MANY FRIENDS, YOU SEE.
BECAUSE I AM SO SPIDERY,
I’M LONELY ALL THE DAY.

(to Alan)

YOU SEE? YOU SEE?
THEY HAVE A REPUTATION,
WITH WHICH THE FACTS DO NOT AGREE
WHEN PUT IN COMBINATION.

All *(except Alan)* OH, EV’RY SUGARPLUM SPIDER
IS GRACIOUS TO A “T”.
YOU MAY RELY ON ME
TO TELL YOU TRUTHFULLY.

OH, ANY SUGARPLUM SPIDER
WILL LEND A HELPING HAND,
AND IF YOU CAN’T TRUST A SPIDER,
KINDLY TELL ME WHO YOU CAN.

(Alan joins in) OH, EV’RY SUGARPLUM SPIDER
IS GRACIOUS TO A “T”.
YOU MAY RELY ON ME
TO TELL YOU TRUTHFULLY.

OH, ANY SUGARPLUM SPIDER
WILL LEND A HELPING HAND,
AND IF YOU CAN’T TRUST A SPIDER,
KINDLY TELL ME WHO YOU CAN.

SOUND CUE #10 - Out

Victoria Now, off to bed spiders. *(they disperse)* What an exciting day they have had. So, tell me, Mr. Alan ...

Alan Just, “Alan,” your majesty.

Victoria Alan ... What does she look like, this Contrary Mary for whom you say you are looking?

Alan She is quite beautiful, your majesty, and might be carrying a basket of flowers which ...

Victoria *(looking at back of house)* Then, this must be her now.

Mary *(running on from back of house)* Alan!

Alan Mary!

SOUND CUE #11 (symphonic love music) - In

Mary & Alan run to each other in slow motion & embrace, crying “Ob, Alan! Ob, Mary! Ob, Alan! Ob, Mary!” etc. until interrupted by Victoria

Victoria Excuse me!

SOUND CUE #11 - Out

Alan Yes? Oh! Mary, this is the Queen of the Forest. Your majesty, this is Mary.

Victoria The elusive Contrary Mary! *(extends hand)* Charming child.

Mary *(taking hand, curtseying)* Your majesty.

Victoria *(snatching hand away)* Fiddle-dee-dee! *(leaving)* Nice to have met you, young Toyland couple. *(stops)* Oh! One final word of caution - *whatever* you do, *(with great significance)* don't look under *this particular stone*. *(indicating small rock, begins to exit)* Farewell.

Alan Why not?

Victoria *(stops, turns)* Are you serious?

Alan It looks like an ordinary rock to me.

Victoria Oh, heavens, no! This is the Keystone of the Black Widow Forest. Many years ago, this forest was an evil place.

SOUND CUE #12 (spooky sound) - In

Terrible things happened here. There were trolls and goblins and long-legged Bandersnatches ...

M & A *(clinging to one another)* No!

Victoria Most assuredly yes! The trees were dripping with huge bloodthirsty Razor-tail Spiders - not sugarplum spiders as we have today. There were snaggle-tooth horn toads and hump-back hounds and all manner of terrible, frightening things!

SOUND CUE #12 - Out

But they're all gone now. *(Mary & Alan relax)* You see, The Toymaker trapped all the evil things in the forest and boiled them down to a pea-green soup. He poured the soup into a bottle and he put the bottle under that stone. That is the Keystone and it must never be moved. *(smiles)* Good night. *(exits)*

Mary *(beat)* What a strange story. *(beat)* Oh, Alan, let's go home.

Alan Yes, Mary, let's go home ... to dinner and to celebrate our reunion. *(they exit, hand in hand)*
Gonzorgo enters, looking frightened.

Barnaby *(entering)* How I get myself into these confounded situations, I'll never ... *(sees Gonzorgo)* Gonzorgo!

Gonzorgo *(leaping in fright)* Gonzorgo!

Barnaby Be quiet! You look like you're as lost as I am, but at least we got rid of Alan, didn't we? *(Gonzorgo nods)* Not a bad life's work, I suppose. *(notices map on floor)* What's this? A map! *(picks up map)* A map of the Black Widow Forest! This must be Alan's map. He must have dropped it right before he was eaten alive. *(opening map)* Let's see. Right here in the middle of the map it says "Keystone." Keystone, Keystone. *(sees Keystone)* Ah, ha! I'll bet *that's* the Keystone right there! *(advances to and begins to inspect Keystone as Victoria enters from side to speak to audience)*

Victoria *(as herself, sits on stool DR, book at her side)* Barnaby had a good nose for trouble and he was about to find the biggest bottle of trouble in all of Toyland - in all the world, I'd say. And what happens next is as much your guess as it is mine - it happens differently every time I tell the story. *(sits)*

Barnaby *(still at Keystone)* Ah, ha! Look, Gonzorgo! It says right here on this very ordinary looking rock, "Keystone - Do Not Move." What do you suppose that means? Give me a hand with this thing - on three, OK? *(they position themselves upstage of the Keystone)* One! Two!

Victoria No, Barnaby!

Barnaby Three! *(they push the Keystone slightly downstage)*

SOUND CUE #13 (Keystone sounds) - In/out

(Victoria slumps over on her stool with a groan as Barnaby withdraws a bottle from the stone)

SOUND CUE #13 - Out

Did you hear something? Ah, never mind. What's this? *(reading tag attached to bottle)* Says here in big red letters "This bottle is filled with every terrible thing in the world. It is very dangerous. Put it back under the Keystone and get out of the forest. Sincerely, The Toymaker." Hmm. *(pocketing bottle)* This might

come in handy. And (*refers to map*) according to this map, Toyland is that way. Come on, Gonzorgo. Maybe we'll find some sign of Mary, and if we can convince her that Alan is really dead, maybe she'll marry me. (*Nibbles appears with another flower*) Look, Gonzorgo! A hideous, blood-sucking spider! Run for your life! (*they exit at a gallop, Nibbles shrugs, exits*)

SCENE 2

(*Return To The Toymaker's Shop*)

Kringle (*running on with other townspeople*) What's happening? The wells are dry and the sky is cloudy ...

Krouton ... and the trees are droopy and the cows won't come home!

Mayor We'll ask the Toymaker's wife. She'll know what to do.

Kringle (*as all see Victoria slumped over and gasp*) What's wrong with her?

Mayor (*approaching her cautiously*) She appears to be asleep. Victoria? Victoria, wake up! (*to others*) This looks bad, my friends ... it looks like a spell.

Meredith Barnaby did this!

All (*severally*) Yes, Barnaby! Find Barnaby! *etc.*

Mayor (*as Mary and Alan appear from back of house*) Look! It's Alan and Mary, safely returned from the Black Widow Forest! Maybe they can help us get to the bottom of this. Alan!

Alan (*quickly approaching stage w/ Mary*) Mr. Mayor! What's happening?

Mary The wells are dry and the sky is cloudy ...

Alan ... and the trees are droopy and the cows won't come home.

Mayor And the Toymaker's wife is under a spell.

M & A (*stop, look at each other*) Barnaby!

Meredith That's what *I* said!

Mary What shall we do?

Mayor We were hoping that one of *you* would know what to do.

Alan Not I. How about you, Mary?

SOUND CUE #14 - In

Musical No. 5 - *Toyland's In Trouble*

Mary I'M SORRY, BUT I'M JUST ... AS ANXIOUS
AND CONFUSED ... AS ANY OTHER BODY HERE.
AND THOUGH IT GRIEVES ME GREATLY TO ADMIT IT, I'M AFRAID
THAT HOW THIS ALL OCCURRED ... IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR.

Mayor OH, TO MAKE THE WELLS ... WET ONCE MORE

Alan OH, TO GIVE THE TREES THEIR FORMER POSTURE

Kringle OH, TO HANG THE SUN WHERE IT USED TO BE BEFORE

Krouton OH, COWS WE'RE AW'FLY SORRY THAT WE LOST YA

Mayor TOYLAND'S IN TROUBLE, MIGHTY BAD TROUBLE, TOO

Mary AND AS FOR WHAT TO DO,

All WE HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE

Mayor TOYLAND'S IN TROUBLE, MIGHTY BAD TROUBLE, TOO

Mary AND AS FOR WHAT TO DO,

All WE HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE
Mary (*seeing book beside Victoria*) BUT WHAT'S THIS?
Alan IT'S JUST A BOOK.
Meredith WHAT KIND OF BOOK?
Mary LET'S HAVE A LOOK. (*picks up book*) Hmmmm.

SOUND CUE #14 - Fade out under dialogue

It says on the cover, "In case of emergency, open book." I'd say that this is an emergency, wouldn't you, Alan?

Alan Indeed!
Mayor I concur!
Mary (*opens book*) It says here, "To whom it may concern: If I am asleep in the middle of the day, it's probably because I'm under a spell. And if I am under a spell, it's probably because Barnaby is up to no good. Sincerely, Victoria Toymaker."
Barnaby (*enters, singing, w/ Gonzorgo*) I'm looking over a four-leaf clover, that I over ...
All Barnaby Smoot!
Barnaby That's my name, don't wear it out.
Mary What have you done, Barnaby?
Barnaby Mary! You're alive! (*starts to run to her*)
Alan Yes, Uncle, and so am I!
Barnaby (*stops*) Blast!
Mary What's that, Barnaby?
Barnaby (*moving toward stage again*) I said ... uh ... "At last." Tell me, Alan, how *did* you get away from those spiders?
Alan Oh, Uncle, the Sugarplum Spiders of the Black Widow Forest aren't dangerous at all.
Barnaby Obviously not. Say, what's the big occasion here, anyway?
Mayor We're having a town meeting. The wells are dry and the sky is cloudy ...
Alan And the trees are droopy and the cows won't come home ...
Mary And the Toymaker's wife is under a spell!
Alan And we think that *you're* the reason!
Barnaby That's very nice of you, but let's get back to this Toymaker's wife thing. You say she's under a spell?
Mary Yes!
Barnaby And why do you say that?
Alan Because she won't wake up.
Barnaby Won't wake up?
Mary We've tried everything.
Barnaby Everything?
Mayor That's right, everything.
Barnaby Have you tried ... sticking a feather up her nose?
All No!
Barnaby Dropping a snake down her bloomers?

All No!

Barnaby Setting her hair on fire?

All No!

Barnaby Then you *haven't* tried *everything*, have you? But never mind. I believe you. (*aside, to Gonzorgo*) Though I can't imagine how this could have happened, unless ... unless ...

SOUND CUE #15 (Thunder, Victoria speaking from the Great Beyond) - In

Mayor Run for cover! It's the end of the world! (*townspeople exit quickly, "screaming"*)

Voice Barnaby Smoot!

Barnaby What?

Voice Put the bottle back.

Barnaby What bottle? I haven't got any ...

Voice Put the bottle back.

Barnaby (*reveals bottle*) Why? I found it. It's mine.

Voice That bottle is filled with evil spirits collected by the Toymaker many years ago. You are destroying Toyland, Barnaby, and you must stop.

Alan Say, Mary, that sounds like the Toymaker's wife.

Voice It is I, dear young friends. Barnaby has found the bottle that holds all the evil in Toyland. He took it from the place where I hid it years ago and, by doing so, has cast a spell upon me. I am speaking to you from the land of the spirits.

Mary Are you dead, Mrs. Toymaker?

Voice Not yet. But by taking the bottle from the keystone, Barnaby cast a deep and powerful spell upon all of Toyland. The wells are dry and the sky is cloudy ...

Barnaby And the trees are droopy and the cows won't come home - we know all that. But what's happened to *you*?

Voice I cannot move.

Barnaby But you *can* still talk.

Voice Yes.

Barnaby But you're not dead.

Voice Not yet.

Barnaby Not yet?

Voice No.

Barnaby Well, what would it take to ... I mean ... what would it take ...

Voice To kill me?

Barnaby Yes.

Voice And cast a permanent shadow over all of Toyland?

Barnaby Sure, sure, that too.

Voice If you open the bottle and drink what's inside, you will release the evil spirits that I captured so long ago. You will become the most evil and powerful man in all the world ... and I will die.

Barnaby I'd be the most powerful man in the world, eh?

Voice Yes, Barnaby.

Barnaby Then I'd be able to do anything I wanted to do, right? (*leers at Mary*)

Mary Barnaby!

Voice Everyone in Toyland would be your slave.

Barnaby And you'd be gone for good?

Voice Yes, Barnaby

Barnaby How about the toymaker?

Voice Him as well.

Barnaby Well, that settles it! *(starts to uncork bottle)*

M & A No!

Voice Take care, Barnaby!

SOUND CUE #15 - Out

Barnaby Oh, be quiet. If this turns out only half as good as I think it will, I'll be rid of Alan once and for all and Mary will be my bride. *(uncorks bottle, holds bottle aloft)* Victory is mine! *(drinks)*

SOUND CUE #16 (spirits, drinking, belch) - In/Out

Alan Toyland is doomed!

Mary Alan, what shall we do?

Barnaby *(claspng stomach)* Wait a minute! Something is wrong!

Victoria *(reanimated)* What makes you say that, Barnaby?

M & A You're alive!

Victoria I tricked you, Barnaby. The spirits of evil are free from the bottle, but now they are inside you!

Barnaby I ... I don't feel very good, Gonzorgo. Everything is getting dark. I ... I ... *(passes out on stool)*

Gonzorgo *(in sad amazement)* Gonzorgo.

Victoria Don't worry, Gonzorgo. He's only sleeping

Alan Now what?

Victoria Now I need to draw the evil spirits of Barnaby into something else and hide them somewhere that Barnaby will never find them.

Mary What will you put them in?

Victoria The only thing that will get the spirits to come out of Barnaby and the only thing that will hold them safely once they're out is ... *(starts to search her person)* is a very simple thing, really.

Alan What is it?

Victoria *(still searching)* I usually carry one with me ... for just such an emergency as this. But I ... I don't seem to have one.

M & A One what?

Victoria *(gives up, exasperated)* A very small pumpkin.

Mary Oh, no! Pumpkin season is over and all of Farmer Brown's pumpkins have been made into pumpkin pie. What will we do now?

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Victoria What is it, Gonzorgo? *(Gonzorgo takes out pumpkin)* A very small pumpkin! Gonzorgo, you have saved the day!

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo!

Victoria Thank you, Gonzorgo. Now, quickly Alan, help me with this. Here, you take the pumpkin *(hands Alan the pumpkin)* while I take the book *(Mary hands him the book)* and we'll put these evil spiritis where they belong.

(crosses upstage of Barnaby, opens book) Alan, place the pumpkin on Barnaby's head. *(Alan does so)* Now everyone repeat after me. *(to audience)* You, too! Spirits of evil inside the old lumpkin.

M & A Spirits of evil inside the old lumpkin.

Victoria Leave him and enter this very small pumpkin.

M & A Leave him and enter this very small pumpkin.

Victoria He will not remember what happened this day.

M & A He will not remember what happened this day.

Victoria Nor bother the pumpkin where e'er it may lay.

M & A Nor bother the pumpkin where e'er it may lay.

SOUND CUE #17 (spirits leaving) - In/out

Barnaby *(waking up)* What are you all looking at? And what the dickens ...? *(finds pumpkin on top of head)* What's this pumpkin doing on my head? Just a minute ago, the old woman was about to tell her confounded story and now I'm sitting here with a pumpkin on my head.

Victoria I'll take that pumpkin, Barnaby.

Barnaby Gladly. *(hands Victoria the pumpkin)* It's yours. Come along, Gonzorgo, I'm starving. Let's see if we can find some raspberry tea biscuits. *(starts to exit with Gonzorgo)*

Victoria Take care of Barnaby, Gonzorgo! *(they are gone)* I will keep this pumpkin in a box in my basement where it will be safe. *(puts pumpkin in apron pocket)* My basement is full of toys and Barnaby would never go down there. Probably wasn't a very good idea hiding evil spirits in the ground to begin with.

Gonzorgo Gonzorgo.

Victoria You're certainly right about that, Gonzorgo!

Barnaby Right about *what*, for pity sake? How is it everybody understands Gonzorgo but me?

Victoria Because you don't listen, Barnaby.

Barnaby Poppycock! Come along, Gonzorgo. *(exits)*

Gonzorgo *(shrugs, speaks to Victoria)* It's a living. *(exits)*

Mary *(pointing to back of house or wing)* Look, Mrs. Toymaker! The toys are returning from their watch.

Lead Toy *(leading toys to stage)* I don't know but I declare!

Toys I don't know but I declare!

Lead Toy Barnaby ain't got no hair!

Toys Barnaby ain't got no hair!

Lead Toy Smell jus' like a sweaty dog!

Toys Smell jus' like a sweaty dog!

Lead Toy Live inside a hollow log!

Toys Live inside a hollow log!

Lead Toy Sound off! *etc. (as they form line as before on stage)*

Victoria *(as toys & spiders approach stage)* Like clockwork! But who's that they've got with them?

Alan It's the sugarplum spiders! Mary, those are the spiders I was telling you about.

Victoria Sugarplum spiders! I haven't seen one of those since I was a little girl!

Alan They're harmless, you know - not bloodthirsty at all.

Victoria Of course, they aren't. *(to spiders)* Welcome, spiders!

Spiders *(waving)* Hello.

Victoria So nice to see you again after all these years. And how is my sister, the Queen of the Forest?

Webster She's fine.

Egmont But she says to tell your husband not to bury any more bottles in her forest.

Victoria You may tell her she has my word on that!

Kringle *(entering with Mayor & townspeople, he points to spiders)* There they are! Bring the net!

Victoria No, Kringle. These are *Sugarplum* Spiders, come to deliver a message - they are no danger to anyone in Toyland. Nor is Barnaby *(takes out pumpkin)* thanks to this. Toyland is safe.

Mayor What happened, Victoria? Are you all right?

Victoria It's a long story, Mr. Mayor - and one that I look forward to telling you some day. But for now, what's important is that the toys have returned ... Tennn hut! *(toys stomp right-left, snap to attention, Victoria laughs, others applaud)* ... and Toyland is safe and, best of all, we are all back to our old cheerful selves so it is to *all* of us that I say ... "Welcome!"

All Welcome!

SOUND CUE #18 - In

Musical No. 6 - *A Candle Burning Cheerfully*

(singing first to each other, then to audience)

Group #1

WELCOME!
WELCOME!

A CANDLE BURNING CHEERFULLY
TO GREET THE WEARY VISITOR
WHO TRAVELS TO OUR LAND
FROM FAR AWAY,
FROM FAR AWAY.

A CANDLE BURNING CHEERFULLY
TO GREET THE WEARY VISITOR
WHO TRAVELS TO OUR LAND
FROM FAR AWAY,
FROM FAR AWAY.
WELCOME!
WELCOME!
WELCOME!
WELCOME!

Group #2

WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME! WELCOME!

WELCOME!
WELCOME!
WELCOME!
FAR AWAY!
FAR AWAY!

WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME! WELCOME!
FAR AWAY!
FAR AWAY!
WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME! WELCOME!
WELCOME!
WELCOME!

Victoria *(as all on stage wave)* And may you all live happily ever after!

SOUND CUE #18 - Curtain call tag plays out

THE PLAY IS ENDED