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Big thanks to the original cast and production team at Arizona Broadway Theatre—thank you for your wonderful contributions to the process and the script!

And thanks to Matt for, as always, unending support!

Cast of Characters

ROSE RED, younger sister of Snow White. In her teens. Feels like she should be trying to “get famous” even though she’d rather not be.

SNOW WHITE, now married to her Prince. Life has become a bit boring in the years after being kissed by the Prince.

MR. BLUSH, Rose Red and Snow White’s thrice-married father. Just wants the best for his daughters.

MRS. BLUSH, Rose Red and Snow White’s second stepmother. Very sweet and very *not* evil, even though everyone expects her to be. “Stepmothers get a very bad rap!”

LITTLE MISS MUFFET, real name, Buffy Muffet. In her teens. Rose Red’s best friend. Desperate to get famous.

GOLDILOCKS, now married to Baby Bear. Owner of “Just Right Porridge.” Martha Stewart of the fairy tale set. Always trying to convince her friends to become porridge sellers and hold “Porridge Parties.”

BABY BEAR, all grown up and married to Goldilocks. Hates being called “Baby.”

CINDERELLA, grown up and married to her Prince. In front of the public she’s the perfect princess. In private, she tries to be a bit more “street.”

FAIRY GODMOTHER, lost her fortune investing in glass clothing. “Who knew glass underwear wouldn’t sell...” Now selling “Just Right Porridge.”

PRINCE CHARMING (ONE and TWO), Snow White and Cinderella’s princes, played by the same actor to show how generic fairy tale princes tend to be. This role may NOT be cast with two actors.

FROG/JACK, Just a guy who was transformed into a frog by a magic student. Not a prince, just a farm boy. Although he has these magic beans... (NOTE: As a frog, can be played by either a puppet or a person in a costume.)

SPIDER, Nice arachnid with a P.R. problem. Works with Miss Muffet to create a newsworthy story, and thus a “scary” street cred. (NOTE: Can be played by either a puppet or a person in a costume.)

JACOB GRIMM, Senior Editor of the “Grimm Times.” Collector of folk tales.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD, fame seeking granddaughter. Did she allow the wolf to eat her grandmother?

BIG BAD WOLF, grandmother-eating accomplice.

HANSEL and GRETEL, friends and classmates of Rose Red’s. Navigationally challenged. Not very smart in general.

LITTLE MISS MUFFET’S MOM, can be played as an off-stage voice.

VILLAGE MEN AND WOMEN

MAGIC MIRROR

NARRATOR

Character Notes

Rose Red and Snow White are typical sisters—they get along most of the time, but there are moments when they dig at each other. Make sure to find those lighter moments between the girls, and with Rose in general—she can be a bit too much “gloom and doom” if not played correctly.

Cast Size and Doubling

Although this script was written for a large cast, the original production used only nine actors and two puppets, which is the very least amount of bodies needed to stage the play. Obviously, all roles can be played by individual actors, and the puppet roles can be played by live actors as well. The MAGIC MIRROR was played by an actor holding a mirror frame, with his face replacing the glass.

If the production requires even more roles, the character of WILLIAM GRIMM can be added by splitting up JACOB GRIMM’s lines. Any number of REPORTERS could also be added, with JACOB GRIMM’s lines divided among them as well. The VILLAGERS that come to have their frogs transformed back into their sons could be couples (one couple per frog, with lines divided appropriately.)

Please DO NOT cast two actors as PRINCE CHARMING ONE and TWO. The joke is that they look and act exactly the same.

Setting

The main playing area is the Blush home, with a window upstage center for the Fairy Godmother's entrance. In the original production there was a couch down right that was positioned in a way that allowed the actor playing the Frog to sneak behind it without being seen, then setting the puppet on the back of the couch. Down left was a dining table, also positioned so that the actor playing Jacob could sneak under the table for his surprise entrances without being seen. The set design included stage curtains that allowed for the actors to sneak in and out, but large holes in hard flats, positioned low enough behind the couch and table, masked from the audience, would also work.

Further down right was a stump (large enough to mask the actor operating the frog puppet), and this area was also used for Miss Muffet's bedroom in the opening scene.

For Goldilocks's home, the dining room table was rotated, revealing a completely different tablecloth, and moved center. A lighting change defined the area as a new house.

Scene Transitions and Pace

To keep the pace up, don't go to full black between scenes—blackouts will kill the pace of the show. If possible, just transition from one to the other using lights to let the audience know the scene has changed.

Slang and Modern References

In the original production, Jacob was dressed with a GMZ logo across his shirt (as in the Grimm version of TMZ), and instead of a pad/paper he carried a video recorder. References to the newspaper were replaced with references to the Internet and TV. I've left these out of the published script to preserve timelessness to the show, but feel free to add these references in your production. The same goes for Cinderella's "street" slang—feel free to change it up to reflect current use and phrases.

Music

Most characters have a theme. These can be appropriate, current pop music or original pieces. JACOB GRIMM's theme music was a TV news theme. FAIRY GODMOTHER's theme music was something you would hear during a game show as the announcer described the Grand Prize Package—upbeat and exciting.

Acknowledgments

The Adventures of Rose Red (Snow White's Less-Famous Sister) was first performed on May 6, 2011 at the Arizona Broadway Theater in Peoria, Arizona, with Executive Producer Kiel Klaphake, Artistic Producer Cassandra Klaphake, and Artistic Associate Kurtis Overby. The cast and staff were as follows:

ROSE RED Katie Reid
MRS. BLUSH, FAIRY GODMOTHER. Laurie Trygg
GOLDILOCKS, RED RIDING
HOOD, LITTLE MISS MUFFET. Kristin Netzband
SNOW WHITE, VILLAGER. Michelle Chin
CINDERELLA,
GRETEL, VILLAGER. Laura Christian Brown
MR. BLUSH Sam Ramirez
JACOB/NARRATOR. Julian-Sebastian Pena
PRINCE CHARMING
(ONE AND TWO), HANSEL. Michael McNay
BABY BEAR, VILLAGER, BIG
BAD WOLF, FROG/JACK, SPIDER Rhys Gilyeat

Director. Sean Abley
Stage Manager. Ally Burnham
Set Design. Michaela Stein
Costume Design Martha Clarke
Prop Design Mary Rooney
Light Design. Michael Haslanger
Sound Design. Brian Honsberger

THE ADVENTURES OF ROSE RED (SNOW WHITE'S LESS-FAMOUS SISTER)

by Sean Abley

(Lights up.

The NARRATOR appears in a spotlight. FAIRY TALE UNDERSCORE plays.)

NARRATOR. Hello, everyone! Has anyone here heard the story of Snow White, one of the most famous fairy tales of all time?

(Audience responds.

SNOW WHITE enters, poking her head into the spot.)

SNOW WHITE. Hello! No, please, no need to stand up!

NARRATOR. This tale isn't about her.

SNOW WHITE. Nonsense, of course it is—

(NARRATOR shoves SNOW WHITE off. FAIRY TALE UNDERSCORE stops abruptly with a "needle scratch" sound effect.)

NARRATOR. This is the tale of her younger sister, Rose Red. Rose has just turned thirteen, and the eyes of all the villagers are upon her.

(Lights up on Blush home. A typical fairy tale home—rustic yet ornate, with both a kitchen and living room as the main playing areas. ROSE RED enters.)

ROSE RED. Hey, I thought we told you—no narrators in the house!

NARRATOR. But how will everyone know what's going on if I don't tell them what's going on?

ROSE RED. Out! Get out!

(She shoos the NARRATOR out the door.)

NARRATOR. *(As he hastily exits:)* We now present "The Adventures of Rose Red"! *(Exits.)*

(ROSE RED flops down on the couch. Takes out a magic iMirror [like an iPhone].)

ROSE RED. Magic iMirror in my hand, dial Little Miss Muffet.

(In another area, LITTLE MISS MUFFET talks to ROSE RED through her magic iMirror.)

MISS MUFFET. O.M.G. what took you so long to call me?

ROSE RED. We just saw each other five minutes ago!

MISS MUFFET. Well, in those five minutes I just heard from the Little Mermaid who heard it from Thumbelina who actually saw with her own eyes—are you sitting down?

ROSE RED. Yes! Tell me!

MISS MUFFET. She saw Jack and Jill...go up a hill!

ROSE RED. Really?!

MISS MUFFET. For really real!

ROSE RED / MISS MUFFET. (*Unison:*) That's so romantic!

ROSE RED. I would totally walk up a hill with him. He's so cute!

MISS MUFFET. I know! But not as cute as a certain Little Boy Blue...

ROSE RED. Oh, totally not as cute. Jack is cute, but Little Boy Blue is mega cute.

MISS MUFFET. ...who, according to some singing birds I know, thinks a certain Rose Red is, and I quote, "Okay, I guess." He's totally in love with you!

ROSE RED. He is? Hmm, I don't know. I mean, yes, he's super awesome and all, but he's in that band with the Pied Piper, and girls are always going crazy over him. I don't think I could deal with all that...craziocity. (*A beat.*) But he's so cute! Isn't he dating Rapunzel?

MISS MUFFET. Oh, I love her! She's—

MISS MUFFET / ROSE RED. (*Unison:*) So pretty!

ROSE RED. Like, insanely pretty. So she can have him. When I date someone, it's going to be far away from crowds of insane girls throwing their wands up on stage. (*A beat.*) But he's so cute!

MISS MUFFET. What are you doing now?

ROSE RED. Not much. Just avoiding my homework. I hate science. Who cares what speed of wind would be needed to blow down the Three Pigs' houses. But my parents said if I don't bring my grades up, they'll take away my magic iMirror privileges for a week!

MISS MUFFET. Harsh!

ROSE RED. I know! It's not my fault. My Ye Olde History teacher has it out for me.

MISS MUFFET'S MOM. (*Off:*) Buffy Muffet! Get off that magic mirror and start on that homework!

MISS MUFFET. (*Shouts to MOM:*) In a minute! (*To mirror:*) Hey, did you hear about Bo Peep? She totally lost her sheep.

ROSE RED. No way!

MISS MUFFET. Yes, way! Fell asleep, lost them, and then they came back on their own.

ROSE RED. Just came back?

MISS MUFFET. Yup. Wagging their tails like it was no big thing. And now she's on the cover of the "Grimm Times" because she supposedly bred these genius sheep that you don't even have to watch. She's famous!

ROSE RED. For losing something? That's weird.

MISS MUFFET. I'm super jealous.

MISS MUFFET'S MOM. (*Off:*) Buffy Muffet! Don't make me come up there!

MISS MUFFET. (*Shouts to MOM:*) Okay, okay! (*To mirror:*) I gotta run. I'll see you tomorrow in school.

ROSE RED. Later.

(*MISS MUFFET hangs up. Lights down on MISS MUFFET.*)

(*MRS. BLUSH enters from outside. Lights change. EVIL STEPMOTHER THEME MUSIC. ROSE jumps at the music.*)

MRS. BLUSH. (*Evil laugh:*) AH, HA HA HA HA—

(*Lights restore. Music stops.*)

MRS. BLUSH. (*Instant change to nice:*) Hello Rose!

ROSE RED. Marion! You scared me to death! Your theme music is scary!

MRS. BLUSH. Please take your shoes off the couch! You'll stain the cushions.

ROSE RED. So? You can just cast a spell and make them clean again.

MRS. BLUSH. Rose, just because I'm your stepmother doesn't mean I cast spells.

ROSE RED. Our first stepmother did.

MRS. BLUSH. Your first stepmother was the Evil Queen. That was her job—to cast spells. I'm just a regular stepmother who uses a little magic now and then to spice up a casserole. Speaking of which, come help me set the table. Your sister and her husband are coming over for dinner.

(ROSE RED gets off the couch and starts setting the table. MRS. BLUSH prepares dinner in the kitchen.)

ROSE RED. Snow White is coming over for dinner? Great.

MRS. BLUSH. What's wrong with that?

ROSE RED. Every time she comes over, all those reporters try to barge in here and take pictures and interview her. It's annoying.

(MR. BLUSH enters from outside. MRS. BLUSH moves over to kiss him hello.)

MR. BLUSH. I'm home!

ROSE RED. Hi, Dad!

MRS. BLUSH. How was your day? Tell me while I work on dinner. I had to stay late at the Magic Apple Orchard to finish up some paperwork, so I'm a bit behind.

MR. BLUSH. Well, let's just say, whoever said Old King Cole was a merry old soul? Has never worked as a fiddler in his Royal Court. "Bring me my pipe! Bring me my fiddlers three!" All day long. I'm getting Fiddlers Elbow.

MRS. BLUSH. Go get cleaned up. Snow White and her husband will be here soon.

MR. BLUSH. (Takes the "Grimm Times" out of his pocket.) Did you see this, Rose? "Bo Peep Reaps Smart Sheep." Your friend is famous!

ROSE RED. For losing something. That's weird!

MR. BLUSH. Weirder things have happened. Your sister is famous for falling into a coma. And someday, fingers crossed, something weird will happen to you and you can be famous, too.

ROSE RED. (So not:) Awesome.

(SNOW WHITE enters.)

SNOW WHITE. I'm here!

(SNOW WHITE THEME MUSIC plays for a beat, then JACOB GRIMM enters, accompanied by JACOB GRIMM NEWS THEME. He starts shouting questions. PRINCE CHARMING trails behind.)

JACOB. Miss White, can we get a comment on the Bo Peep situation?

SNOW WHITE. I don't really know her but I'm sure she's a nice person...

JACOB. Rumors have it that the apples at the Magic Apple Orchard, where your stepmother works as a researcher in the seeds depart-

ment, have been tainted with a similar curse to your own magic apple. Comment?

MRS. BLUSH. I resent that!

SNOW WHITE. The apples are just fine. I ate one this morning...

JACOB. Your Prince Charming looks so much like Cinderella's Prince Charming. Are they brothers?

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. No! Our resemblance is purely coincidental.

JACOB. Is it true you're the new spokesperson of Pale, the Soap for the Fair of Face?

SNOW WHITE. I can't say anything about that until the contracts are signed.

(Does a commercial, holding up the product. COMMERCIAL MUSIC plays.)

But if you want skin as fair as snow, try Pale, the Soap for the Fair of Face!

JACOB. That means she is!

(PRINCE CHARMING shoves JACOB GRIMM out the door as he continues to shout questions. SNOW WHITE moves to kiss her father and stepmother. PRINCE CHARMING shakes MR. BLUSH's hand.)

SNOW WHITE. Hi, Dad, Marion. Hey, Rose Blows.

ROSE RED. Hey.

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. How come they never ask me any questions? You'd still be asleep if it weren't for me.

SNOW WHITE. Don't take it personally, Prince. Your story just isn't as interesting as mine. You need something spicy, like that Bo Peep. She's made all the headlines.

ROSE RED. For losing something! That's weird!

(MRS. BLUSH sets a small cauldron on the table.)

MRS. BLUSH. Okay, everyone! Take your seats!

ROSE RED. Awesome. I'm starved!

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. What are we having?

(Everyone sits down at the table. MRS. BLUSH stands over the cauldron. Lights change as she gestures over the pot with a wooden ladle, reciting what sounds like a spell. Ominous music plays underneath.)

MRS. BLUSH. (*Heavy, ominous:*) Boil, bubble, simmer and stew! Exotic spices into this brew! A potion no mortal man can resist! Stirred with this scepter (*Holds ladle high*) in my fist. (*Dumps a spice into the pot.*) Eye of newt, a single scoop! Behold my creation—

(*Music stops and lights change back to normal.*)

MRS. BLUSH. (*Perky:*) French onion soup!

ALL. (*Yummy noises.*)

(*Everyone ladles out bowls of soup as they talk.*)

ROSE RED. Are you sure this isn't evil French onion soup?

MR. BLUSH. Hush, now. Eat your dinner.

(*JACOB GRIMM pops out from under the table. JACOB GRIMM NEWS THEME plays.*)

JACOB. Hello!

ALL. (*Startled, jump up:*) AAAHH!

JACOB. That smells delicious! Snow White, can we get a statement on the status of this French onion soup?

SNOW WHITE. Not while I'm eating. Get out of here! You're trespassing.

JACOB. Why, yes, I'd love some! (*Takes a sip of soup.*) Mmmm, that's delicious!

MR. BLUSH. How did you get in here?

JACOB. I can't tell you. I don't want to reveal my sources. (*To PRINCE CHARMING:*) Aren't you married to Sleeping Beauty?

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. No!

JACOB. All those princes look so much alike.

(*SNOW WHITE gestures to PRINCE CHARMING, and they take their soup bowls and move into the living room area.*)

MRS. BLUSH. Rose, go get another bowl for Mr. Grimm, please.

(*ROSE RED goes into the kitchen to get another bowl.*)

JACOB. My, my, my! Rose Red is looking quite grown-up these days! Why, she looks like she's just about the age Snow White was when she had that unfortunate poison apple incident. You know, the "Grimm Times" would pay a pretty penny for her exclusive life rights.

ROSE RED. My life rights? But I haven't done anything yet. And who says I want to be in the paper anyway?

ALL. (*Simultaneous:*) Everyone wants to be in the paper!

MR. BLUSH. When and if Rose Red does something newsworthy, you'll be the first people we call.

MRS. BLUSH. Oh, I forgot the dinner rolls!

(*MRS. BLUSH moves into the kitchen area. JACOB follows MRS. BLUSH. Kitchen area.*)

JACOB. Mrs. Blush, the "Grimm Times" is willing to pay you for the exclusive story when you do the evil thing you're going to do to Rose Red.

MRS. BLUSH. Evil thing?

JACOB. What's it going to be? Bake her into gingerbread? Lock her in a tower? Just give me a hint for our readers.

MRS. BLUSH. Mr. Grimm, I'm not evil.

JACOB. You're not?

MRS. BLUSH. Nope. Totally nice.

JACOB. Not even a smidge evil?

MRS. BLUSH. Nope.

JACOB. A te-e-e-ensy bit?

MRS. BLUSH. (*Angrily:*) No! (*Nice:*) Not the tiniest particle. I swear, stepmothers get such a bad rap these days.

(*Moves over to SNOW WHITE and hugs her.*)

I love those girls as if they were my own.

JACOB. (*Writing as he moves to MR. BLUSH:*) "As if they were my own..." Interesting... (*To MR. BLUSH:*) So. Third wife. Any problems there?

MR. BLUSH. With Marion?

JACOB. You must admit, you don't have the best track record. Marrying the Evil Queen after your first wife passed away...

MR. BLUSH. The Evil Queen was just a rebound relationship. I got into that for all the wrong reasons. She kept telling me, "You look so handsome in that fiddler's uniform! I have the whole castle all to myself!" I caved. But never again. I got into this marriage for all the right reasons.

JACOB. Which are?

MR. BLUSH. Love, of course.

JACOB. (*Disappointed:*) Oh, that.

(SNOW WHITE and PRINCE CHARMING *get up to leave.*)

SNOW WHITE. Okay, father. Time for us to go.

MR. BLUSH. So soon? You barely finished your dinner.

SNOW WHITE. I know, but we promised the dwarves we'd drop by for dessert.

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. Slouchy makes a really great green apple tart.

ROSE RED. Slouchy? Since when is Slouchy one of the dwarves.

SNOW WHITE. We got new dwarves. Keep up. The old dwarves all wanted their own book deals and that just wasn't going to happen. Besides, the new dwarves are much better singers and dancers.

(SNOW WHITE *opens the door.* SNOW WHITE and PRINCE CHARMING *head out with JACOB following behind, shouting questions.*)

JACOB. Did your stepmother try to poison you with dinner? Do you think that all stepmothers are truly evil? Rumor has it that the soup had, quote, "Too much salt." Comment? Who is this man with you?

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. I'm Prince Charming!

(*The door closes and the house is quiet again.*)

MRS. BLUSH. I cooked, so you get to clean! I have to go—

(*Music: EVIL STEPMOTHER THEME. Lights change.*)

MRS. BLUSH. (*Evil:*) —down to the dark bowels of the deepest pits of despair. Into the dungeon of pain and suffering. Deep into the most horrible place on this Earth. Follow me if you dare into—

(*Lights restore. Music stops.*)

MRS. BLUSH. (*Nice:*) —the den to finish up some paperwork for tomorrow. Toodles! (*Exits.*)

(MR. BLUSH and ROSE RED *move to the kitchen area to clean up after dinner.*)

ROSE RED. Father, do I have to be famous?

MR. BLUSH. Have to be? Well, no...

ROSE RED. Good. I don't think I could stand reporters yelling questions at me all the time. And I don't want to trade in my friends, or dwarves, or whatever just because they don't sing and dance well enough.

MR. BLUSH. Good points. But there are some positives to being famous, too.

ROSE RED. Like what?

MR. BLUSH. Well, like (*Excited:*) the money! If the Grimm Brothers publish your life story, you could make enough money to never have to work again! You could go to university. You could do anything you wanted!

ROSE RED. Except come home for dinner without reporters yelling a billion questions at me.

MR. BLUSH. Snow White doesn't have to worry about her retirement. It's already paid for with all the endorsements. That could be you!

ROSE RED. What would she retire from? She got famous for sleeping.

MR. BLUSH. Exactly! When you put your mind to it, anything is possible!

ROSE RED. I know—I think I'm going to stay in and figure out how to get famous by staring at a wall.

MR. BLUSH. Good girl! I bet you'll be very good at that! (*Exits.*)

ROSE RED. But what if I don't want to get famous? What if I just want to be a normal kid?

(FAIRY GODMOTHER *pops up in the window.*)

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Did I hear someone making a wish?

(FAIRY GODMOTHER *THEME MUSIC plays for a beat.*)

ROSE RED. No.

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Oh, now, I distinctly heard someone making a wish.

ROSE RED. Nope. Not me.

FAIRY GODMOTHER. I could have sworn I heard some beautiful little girl making a wish.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER *clumsily crawls in through the window. She lands with a thud. ROSE RED rushes to help her up.*)

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Oooph! Thank you, my child. Now, about that wish...

ROSE RED. Fairy Godmother, why are you pushing this wish thing?

FAIRY GODMOTHER. It comes with the "Get Famous" package.

ROSE RED. Again with the get famous.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER THEME MUSIC plays.)

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Your parents purchased the “Get Famous” package when you were born. Redeemable between your thirteenth and eighteenth birthdays. Which means you need to start thinking about that wish.

ROSE RED. Being famous seems like so much work. What if I want to just do whatever and live my life? You know, be happy without everybody noticing?

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Hmm. Well, I guess that’s an option. Really?

ROSE RED. Really.

FAIRY GODMOTHER. And that’s your wish?

(Raises her wand to grant the wish.)

ROSE RED. Hold on! Wait! Not necessarily. I don’t know yet.

FAIRY GODMOTHER. No problem. *(FAIRY GODMOTHER THEME MUSIC plays.)* You have until your eighteenth birthday to redeem your wish. Just hit me up when you decide what you want, okay dearie? And with that, I depart!

(FAIRY GODMOTHER falls back out the window.)

ROSE RED. But the door is right there. *(Sits on the couch.)* The “Get Famous” package? What am I going to do?

(MR. BLUSH enters from the porch.)

MR. BLUSH. You’re going to go finish your homework and then go to bed.

(ROSE RED kisses her father goodnight.)

ROSE RED. Okay, ‘night dad.

MR. BLUSH. Someday you’ll realize that you have something important to do, and everything will all fall into place.

ROSE RED. I hope so.

(Light shift to –

Goldilocks’ home. GOLDILOCKS prepares an afternoon tea and “Just Right Porridge” party.)

GOLDILOCKS. Baby Bear! Are you ready to take the Princes out for the day so the Princesses and I can have our little hen party?

(BABY BEAR enters.)

BABY BEAR. Goldilocks, you know it drives me crazy when you call me “Baby.”

GOLDBLOCKS. But Baby Bear, that's your name, and I think it's adorable. *(She hugs him.)* "Mr. and Mrs. Baby Bear." When we got married and I took your name, it was the happiest day of my life.

BABY BEAR. That was a great day.

GOLDBLOCKS. And every time I say your name, I remember that day, and it makes me smile.

BABY BEAR. I know, but couldn't you just use "B" or something less...infantile.

GOLDBLOCKS. Of course, Baby B. Whatever you say.

(BABY BEAR exits. The door bursts open and CINDERELLA enters.)

CINDERELLA. Cinderella is in the house!

(CINDERELLA THEME MUSIC plays for a beat. JACOB enters. JACOB GRIMM NEWS THEME plays.)

JACOB. Cinderella, are you abusing mice by using them to pull your pumpkin carriage?

CINDERELLA. No!

JACOB. I hear your evil stepsisters have signed a book deal with Grimm Publishing. Are you worried about the possible slanderous accusations to be included in the book?

CINDERELLA. Absolutely not!

(PRINCE CHARMING TWO enters.)

JACOB. Rumor has it your glass slipper was actually made of synthetic polystyrene. Comment?

PRINCE CHARMING TWO. Those glass slippers cost a fortune!

JACOB. And who are you?

PRINCE CHARMING TWO. Prince Charming! Cinderella's husband!

JACOB. You look so much like Snow White's Prince Charming. Are you brothers?

PRINCE CHARMING TWO. No! Now get out!

(PRINCE CHARMING TWO pushes JACOB out the door and closes it behind him.)

CINDERELLA. *(Totally "street" now that the cameras are off:)* Oooh, snap! Hey girl! Up top!

(Holds hand up for a high five.)

GOLDBLOCKS. (*Hesitantly high fives:*) Hey, lady! Glad you could make it!

CINDERELLA. Fo shizzle! You know I love your “Just Right Porridge” products.

(*BABY BEAR enters with a basketball.*)

BABY BEAR. (*Holds up his fist for PRINCE CHARMING TWO to punch it in:*) Prince.

PRINCE CHARMING TWO. (*Punches it in:*) B Bear. What’s up for today?

BABY BEAR. As soon as Prince Charming (*ALL take to the audience:*) ...the other Prince Charming...shows up, we’re gonna head over to Emerald City and shoot some hoops with the Tin Man.

PRINCE CHARMING TWO. Sweet!

CINDERELLA. Snow White and Prince Charming (*ALL take to the audience:*) ...the other Prince Charming...were right behind us.

PRINCE CHARMING TWO. Oh...uh, I need to...go into the other room for something...

(*PRINCE CHARMING TWO exits, followed by BABY BEAR. SNOW WHITE and ROSE RED enter the front door.*)

SNOW WHITE. We’re here!

(*SNOW WHITE THEME MUSIC plays for a beat. ROSE RED reacts as if she isn’t sure where the music is coming from.*)

SNOW WHITE. Prince Charming (*ALL take to the audience:*) ...the other Prince Charming...is parking the carriage.

(*JACOB enters, positioning himself between the two women. JACOB GRIMM NEWS THEME plays.*)

JACOB. Rose Red, rumor has it you threw your Fairy Godmother out the window! Comment!

ROSE RED. Uh, what?

JACOB. Snow White, are you jealous of your sister?

SNOW WHITE. For what? She hasn’t done anything yet.

JACOB. Rose Red, did you indeed set the price for your life rights at three bales of hay spun into gold?

ROSE RED. How could I? I haven’t even lived my life yet.

(*PRINCE CHARMING ONE enters.*)

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. Alright, that’s enough! Get out of here!

JACOB. And you are...?

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. Prince Charming! Snow White's husband!

JACOB. Is that true? You look an awful lot like Cinderella's...

(PRINCE CHARMING ONE pushes JACOB out the door and shuts it behind him. SNOW WHITE hugs GOLDILOCKS and CINDERELLA. BABY BEAR enters.)

SNOW WHITE. Hey ladies! Hope you don't mind, I brought my little sis along.

GOLDILOCKS. Of course not! Pull up some chairs while I kick the men out.

CINDERELLA. Hey, Rosie!

ROSE RED. Hi, Cinderella!

CINDERELLA. Come sit by me, little sis.

BABY BEAR. Hey, Prince.

(Holds up his fist for PRINCE CHARMING ONE to punch it in.)

PRINCE CHARMING ONE. *(Punches it in:)* Hey, B. We on for hoops with Tin Man?

BABY BEAR. Sure are. Prince Charming *(ALL take to the audience:)* ...the other Prince Charming...is in the, uh, other room. We'll meet him out at the carriage.

GOLDILOCKS. Out! Out! Shoo!

(BABY BEAR and PRINCE CHARMING ONE exit. GOLDILOCKS, CINDERELLA, SNOW WHITE, and ROSE RED all sit around the table.)

GOLDILOCKS. Ladies, welcome to my "Just Right Porridge" party! I have some great new flavors this month, like "Princess and the Pecan," "Fee Fi Fo Plum," "Alice In Yummer Land" –

CINDERELLA. *(To ROSE RED:)* Wow, you have really grown up.

SNOW WHITE. I know, right?

CINDERELLA. How old are you?

ROSE RED. Thirteen.

CINDERELLA. Wow, I remember thirteen. I was scrubbing floors and layin' down tracks with mice.

GOLDILOCKS. That's fascinating. More talking about porridge, please!

CINDERELLA. And now it's all reporters camped outside the castle, and wicked stepsisters suing you for defamation of character—

SNOW WHITE. And not being able to make an apple pie without everybody going, "Ooooh, apple! Are you sure?"

GOLDILOCKS. And placing orders for delicious porridge—

CINDERELLA. And it's just horrible!

GOLDILOCKS. Except for the porridge.

SNOW WHITE. If you say so.

GOLDILOCKS. Thank you. (*A beat, then realizes:*) Hey!

CINDERELLA. What are you going to do to make a name for yourself, Rosie? You better figure something out quick. All the good stuff is getting taken. Like that Bo Peep chick! That whole sheep thing? Off the hook! Overnight—famous!

ROSE RED. For losing something! That's weird!

CINDERELLA. Check it—I got one. You could get turned into water by an evil spell, and then a troll drinks you!

ALL. Eeeeeiiw!!

SNOW WHITE. Weird is good, Rosie. Weird sells papers and makes book deals.

ROSE RED. But you said it's so horrible. All the reporters and stuff. If it's that bad, then why do you do it?

CINDERELLA. Do what? Get famous? Well, um, it's just what we do.

SNOW WHITE. It's what's expected of us, Nosey Rosie.

ROSE RED. But that doesn't mean you have to do it.

GOLDILOCKS. Exactly! The only thing you have to do it buy some of this delicious porridge!

ROSE RED. I mean, you do have a choice, right?

CINDERELLA. I guess so. I never thought about it.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER enters through the front door. FAIRY GODMOTHER THEME MUSIC plays for a beat.)

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Did someone just ask for a wish?

GOLDILOCKS / SNOW WHITE / ROSE RED / CINDERELLA. No.

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Oh, okay. Well, I'm just here to pick up my order of "Just Right Porridge" for my party next week. I'm selling a ton of this stuff!

GOLDILOCKS. Oh, right, I have it all boxed up. I'll go load it into your carriage. Keep up the good work! You're my top seller this month! (*Exits. From off.*) Keep talking about porridge!

ROSE RED. You sell porridge? I thought you were magic and granted wishes.

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Well, yes, but I lost a fortune investing in glass clothing after the whole glass slipper craze courtesy of this one here. (*Points to CINDERELLA.*) Who knew glass underwear wouldn't sell?

(SNOW WHITE, ROSE RED, and CINDERELLA all raise their hands as in "I did.")

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Lesson learned. Don't overestimate something being famous today. You never know what will happen tomorrow.

(CINDERELLA pulls FAIRY GODMOTHER aside.)

CINDERELLA. The Prince and I are thinking about starting a mouse ranch. You buy them for cheap, then sell them for three times the price after you turn them into carriage horses. You in?

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Sounds wonderful! Let's talk about it after the next ball. (*To everyone:*) Gotta run. Gepetto has some old puppet he wants me to turn into a real boy. Tootle-loo everyone! Have a nice party! (*Exits.*)

(FAIRY GODMOTHER THEME MUSIC plays.)

ROSE RED. I'm gonna go home and do my homework. Thanks for letting me hang out today.

CINDERELLA. No problem, little sis. Anytime.

SNOW WHITE. Just consider this part of your princess training.

ROSE RED. Right. (*Heads out:*) Oh, and don't forget— (*Imitation of GOLDILOCKS:*) Keep talking about porridge! (*Exits.*)

(SNOW WHITE and CINDERELLA laugh as lights shift to—
Blush home. ROSE RED enters with MISS MUFFET right behind her.)

MISS MUFFET. Okay, tell me everything!

ROSE RED. About?

MISS MUFFET. Goldilocks's porridge party, of course! I hear Cinderella and your sister were there!

ROSE RED. So? They're just people. I see them all the time.

MISS MUFFET. “I see them all the time.” You realize that most people don’t get to hang out with celebrities all the time, right?

(She takes out containers of food from her bag and starts eating.)

ROSE RED. Okay, it was totally fun! Cinderella was like “Hi” and I was like “Hi!” And here’s the thing—Cinderella is totally nice and normal when there aren’t reporters around.

MISS MUFFET. How normal? Tell me every single detail about how normal she is!

ROSE RED. She’s just like us, I guess. *(Air quotes:)* She’s “chill.”

MISS MUFFET. I love that.

ROSE RED. Anyway, it was fun. And I had no idea there were more flavors of porridge than “bland” and “sugar-free bland.” What’s that?

MISS MUFFET. Curds with a side of whey. Want some?

ROSE RED. No “whey.” *(Cracks herself up.)*

MISS MUFFET. Hilarious. Wouldn’t it be great if I could get on the cover of the “Grimm Times” for eating curds and whey? I have to figure out what I’m going to do to get some press in this town.

ROSE RED. You can have it. After watching my sister and her friends, I think I just want to hang out and, I don’t know, be a librarian or something.

MISS MUFFET. And waste having a famous sister? I would kill to have a famous sibling! And I’d totally use that to my advantage. You owe it to your sister to use her fame for your own good.

ROSE RED. What does that mean?

MISS MUFFET. I don’t know. I made it up.

(HANSEL and GRETEL enter. HANSEL AND GRETEL THEME MUSIC plays.)

GRETEL. Hey guys!

ROSE RED. Oh, hey, Hansel. Hey, Gretel. What are you guys doing here?

MISS MUFFET. I invited them. To help me help you figure out what you’re going to do to get some headlines.

ROSE RED. But I don’t need help...

MISS MUFFET. What took you so long?

HANSEL. We got lost.

MISS MUFFET. But you live next door.

GRETEL. I know! And we forgot our map.

(MRS. BLUSH enters. EVIL STEPMOTHER THEME MUSIC plays.)

MRS. BLUSH. AH HA HA HA HA HA! *(Nice.)* Oh, hello, children! You look like you could use a snack. How about some of these...

(MRS. BLUSH pulls out a tray of apples. Light change. EVIL STEPMOTHER MUSIC plays.)

MRS. BLUSH. ...special apples?! AH HA HA HA HA!!!

(The kids all gasp and cringe. JACOB pops up in the window with his reporter pad and pencil, ready for the evil scoop.)

(Music stops. Lights restore.)

MRS. BLUSH. They're caramel covered!

(JACOB pops back out, disappointed.)

ROSE RED. Uh, no thanks, Marion.

MRS. BLUSH. Alrighty. *(Puts the apples away.)*

HANSEL. *(To ROSE RED:)* She's evil, right?

ROSE RED. She says she's not, but...

MRS. BLUSH. Oh, Hansel and Gretel! You look so...

(Light change. EVIL STEPMOTHER THEME plays. JACOB pops up in the window again.)

MRS. BLUSH. ...delicious! Like lovely gingerbread!! AH HA HA HA HA HA HA!!

(Music stops. Lights restore.)

GRETEL. *(A beat.)* She's going to bake us into gingerbread.

ROSE RED. Marion!

MRS. BLUSH. What? I just said they look like they'd love some delicious gingerbread.

(JACOB pops back out, disappointed.)

ROSE RED. Oh. Hmmm.

MISS MUFFET. Are you sure she's not evil?

ROSE RED. I mean, yes, I guess.

(MRS. BLUSH moves over to the MAGIC MIRROR as he enters.)

MRS. BLUSH. Mirror, mirror, on the wall. Who's the fairest of them all?

MAGIC MIRROR. Normally I wouldn't play favorites, but...Snow White is still the fairest of the land!

(Lights change. EVIL STEPMOTHER THEME plays.)

MRS. BLUSH. *(Shrieks:)* AAAAHHHHHHH!!!

(Lights restore. Music stops.)

MRS. BLUSH. You're right! She's just lovely.

(JACOB pops back out, disappointed. MAGIC MIRROR exits.)

MRS. BLUSH. Okay, off I go! You kids have fun! *(Exits.)*

HANSEL. Wow, she's cool with Snow White being the fairest of the land? I can't believe that.

ROSE RED. Believe it. And now everybody's expecting me to do something even bigger and more famouser.

GRETEL. More "famouser?"

ROSE RED. You know what I mean.

MISS MUFFET. Which is why we're here. I picked up a copy of the "Grimm Times" to help us out.

(Pulls out "Grimm Times" and starts flipping through pages.)

HANSEL. I know! You could get eaten by a dragon!

ROSE RED. And then what? Be the most famous dragon poo in the dragon litter box? *(Cracks herself up.)*

GRETEL. *(A beat.)* She said poo.

HANSEL. Well, maybe he'd spit you out before he swallowed you?

ROSE RED. No thanks.

GRETEL. Oooh, I have one! You trespass in an evil wizard's lawn, and then he turns you into a pile of silver coins. Then he gives the coins to all the poor villagers, and then they spend them all over the land. Then a handsome prince has to gather all the coins, then he has to melt them all down into a silver sculpture of you. And then he kisses the statue, and then you come back to life and then you live happily ever after.

MISS MUFFET. *(A beat.)* I like it!

ROSE RED. Are you kidding?!

MISS MUFFET. You're right. Too complicated. We'd never get all the coins back.

ROSE RED. It's not about the coins! I just don't want to be famous!

MISS MUFFET. (*A beat.*) You want to be famous for not being famous?

ROSE RED. No! Look, I get it. I understand that most people would love to be known all over the land. But I'm not that kind of person. I don't want to do something that makes the newspapers, and then gets turned into a book, and then gets turned into a movie, and then gets turned into an action figure.

MISS MUFFET / HANSEL / GRETEL. Yay! Action figures!

HANSEL. I want mine to have fully articulated arms and legs!

ROSE RED. I just want to live my life however it turns out. That will be my "Happily ever after."

MISS MUFFET. (*Solemnly.*) I understand. You don't have to be ashamed. Some people are just...different. You can't help it, you were just born this way. But that doesn't mean we don't all love any less.

GRETEL. We don't?

MISS MUFFET / HANSEL. Shh!

MISS MUFFET. And when we're all super famous, we'll still be your friends.

HANSEL. We will?

MISS MUFFET / GRETEL. Shhh!

ROSE RED. (*Sarcastic.*) Gosh, guys, that's so sweet.

MISS MUFFET / GRETEL / HANSEL. (*Unison.*) We know.

GRETEL. We have to go. We were just stopping by anyway. Our parents sent us to go play in the woods alone.

ROSE RED. Be careful! Don't get lost!

HANSEL. Oh, we won't. We're going to drop breadcrumbs, which totally won't get eaten by birds. So we'll find our way back, and we definitely won't get lost, and we absolutely won't end up at the house of some creepy witch who I promise will not cook us for dinner.

HANSEL / GRETEL. (*A beat. Unison.*) Bye.

(HANSEL and GRETEL exit. HANSEL AND GRETEL THEME MUSIC plays.)

(MISS MUFFET gets up to leave.)

MISS MUFFET. I gotta run. I need to try out the new tuffet.

ROSE RED. Buff, you understand what I mean, right? You don't really think I'm really weird, do you?

MISS MUFFET. Well, not *really* weird. A little weird. It's just a phase. I'm sure of it. Later! (*As she exits:*) Hi Mr. and Mrs. Blush. Bye Mr. and Mrs. Blush!

(MR. and MRS. BLUSH enter with JACOB.)

MR. BLUSH. Rosie! You'll never guess what just happened!

ROSE RED. The Grimm Brothers came up with some crazy scheme to get me on the front page of their paper?

MR. BLUSH. You see? She is very smart!

JACOB. According to our sources, there has been a rash of young men being transformed into frogs by evil witches, sorcerers, curses, what have you.

MRS. BLUSH. And common wisdom states that to transform a frog back into a young man—

MR. BLUSH. —you need a young lady to kiss the frog.

ROSE RED. I really don't like where this is going.

(ROSE RED tries to move away from the group, but they follow her.)

JACOB. And we thought—

ROSE RED. Nope.

MRS. BLUSH. —possibly—

ROSE RED. Uh uh.

MR. BLUSH. —maybe—

ROSE RED. No way.

JACOB. —there might be an off chance—

ROSE RED. Ixnay on the Isskay.

(She turns away from the group.)

JACOB. —that you would be that special village girl to kiss the frogs and transform them back into young men.

(ROSE RED whips out a bullhorn and speaks into it.)

ROSE RED. (*Into bullhorn:*) I will never kiss a frog in a gajillion years.

MR. BLUSH. (*A beat.*) I think that's a "yes."

(JACOB, MR., and MRS. BLUSH all cheer as JACOB runs to the front door. He ushers in THREE VILLAGERS, each carrying a frog.)

JACOB. Come in! Come in! Just line up over there! And the kissing will begin.

(The VILLAGERS line up. JACOB takes out his pad, ready to take notes on the events. ROSE RED stays where she is, arms crossed, glaring.)

(MR. BLUSH takes out a tube of chapstick and applies it to ROSE RED.)

MR. BLUSH. Come on, Rosie. You're up. This is it! I've always known you were destined to do something very important!

VILLAGER ONE. Please, miss. It would mean so much to us.

VILLAGER TWO. We can't keep the dragons from eating our livestock without Phillip to stand watch at night.

VILLAGER THREE. That horrible chef at Chez Toad is always trying to chop off Randall's legs and put them on the menu! Frog's legs flambé!

ROSE RED. *(Into bullhorn:)* Okay, okay! I'll kiss the frogs.

VILLAGER ONE / TWO / THREE. Hooray!

VILLAGER ONE. Oh, thank you young miss! You're saving our family!

(The VILLAGERS hold out their frogs. ROSE RED moves over to the first frog, takes a deep breath, closes her eyes, and kisses the frog. Nothing happens. "YOU LOSE" SOUND EFFECT plays.)

VILLAGER ONE. Oh, pooh! Some kisser you turned out to be! *(Exits.)*

ROSE RED. I tried!

VILLAGER TWO. Try my Phillip.

(ROSE RED takes a deep breath, closes her eyes, and kisses the second frog. Nothing happens. "YOU LOSE" SOUND EFFECT plays.)

VILLAGER TWO. *(Panicked:)* Ooooh, now we'll be eaten by dragons for sure! *(Exits.)*

VILLAGER THREE. My turn!

JACOB. Last chance.

(ROSE RED takes a deep breath, closes her eyes and kisses the last frog. Nothing happens. "YOU LOSE" SOUND EFFECT plays. VILLAGER THREE shakes the frog, as if trying to jump-start the spell.)

VILLAGER THREE. Come on, change! Change, change, change! *(Realizes nothing is happening.)* Oooh, Chez Toad is going to make you the lunch special! *(Exits.)*

(JACOB rushes out after VILLAGER THREE.)

JACOB. How does it feel to have your son's legs served with a side of garlic-mashed potatoes?

ROSE RED. I'm sorry, dad. I guess I'm just not special after all.

MR. BLUSH. No need to be sorry. Of course you're special.

MRS. BLUSH. We just haven't found out how yet.

ROSE RED. I'm fine, really. I like being just plain, old me.

MR. BLUSH. Well, I'm sure we'll figure out something. We have time.

MRS. BLUSH. Maybe she could go down a rabbit hole like that Alice that lives down the block?

ROSE RED. I'm going outside.

MR. BLUSH. I like the way you think. But how could we spin that into something original.

ROSE RED. Heading out now.

MRS. BLUSH. Instead of a rabbit hole, it's a gopher hole. And instead of Wonderland, it's Trashland, and she finds a creature made entirely out of garbage. And she kisses him, and he turns out to be a prince!

ROSE RED. Later!

*(ROSE RED exits the house. Lights shift to—
Woods. ROSE RED sits on a log.)*

ROSE RED. I can't believe they wanted me to kiss garbage.

(A FROG hops up on the log.)

FROG. Ribbit!

ROSE RED. *(Startled:)* What's that?! Oh. Hmmm, should I? *(To audience:)* Should I give it one more try? *(Audience responds.)* Really? *(Audience responds.)* Fine, one more try.

(ROSE RED quickly takes a deep breath, closes her eyes and kisses the frog.)

FROG. Wow, thanks! I like you, too!

ROSE RED. What?!

FROG. Do you always go around kissing strange frogs?

ROSE RED. It's a long story.

FROG. I'm an enchanted frog. What else have I got to do? Let's hear it.

ROSE RED. Well, everyone is trying to figure out how I'm "special." Everyone but me, that is. I'm just fine the way I am, but everybody else seems to think I need something extra. So today I was kissing frogs to turn them back to boys. You got in front of my lips and (*Points to audience*) they thought it was a good idea, and so I went with it.

FROG. Well, I *am* an enchanted frog, and I *will* be transformed back to a person with a kiss. But it has to be by someone who truly loves me for who I am. Thanks for the thought, though.

ROSE RED. What am I gonna do? There's so much pressure on me to be something I'm not.

FROG. Well, my advice is just to be yourself. Don't try to be what other people want you to be. Eventually they'll all come around and realize you're special for no other reason than you're you.

ROSE RED. That sounds good, but I'm not sure I believe it.

FROG. You'll see.

ROSE RED. I hope so. Anyway, I should get back. Good luck finding your true love.

FROG. Thanks! Good luck to you, too!

(ROSE RED exits. Lights shift to—

Blush home. Morning. MISS MUFFET, carrying her school bag, bursts into the Blush home and closes the door behind her. MISS MUFFET THEME MUSIC plays.)

MISS MUFFET. (*Faking.*) Please, stop chasing me! I need my privacy!

(Realizes no one is chasing her. THEME MUSIC stops. She purposefully opens the door, pokes her head out.)

I said, "Please stop chasing me." (*Rushes in again.*) Please, stop chasing me! I need my privacy!

(JACOB rushes in, shouting questions at her. JACOB GRIMM NEWS THEME plays.)

JACOB. Miss Muffet, is it true you sat on a tuffet?

MISS MUFFET. No comment. But that tuffet had it coming!

JACOB. Can you describe the spider that frightened you? Would it be fair to say he stalked you, then attacked you without warning?

MISS MUFFET. No comment. But I was defenseless! I think I'm going to faint! Someone catch me!

(No one catches her as she drops to the floor.)

JACOB. Have you had previous contact with this spider? Is this spider a family friend?

MISS MUFFET. No comment because I fainted and I'm unconscious.

JACOB. (*The ultimate indictment:*) Is it true you were eating curds *and* whey? Together?

(*Music: DRAMATIC STING.*)

MISS MUFFET. How dare you?!

(*ROSE RED, MR., and MRS. BLUSH all enter in bathrobes.*)

MR. BLUSH. What's going on here?!

JACOB. (*Reading his notes:*) "Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet, eating her curds *and* whey..."

MISS MUFFET. You can't prove that.

JACOB. (*Reading his notes:*) "Along came a spider, who sat down beside her, and frightened Miss Muffet away." To your house.

MISS MUFFET. It's been too awful!

MRS. BLUSH. Alright, out. Shoo! Let this young lady have some quiet time. Out! Shoo!

(*MRS. BLUSH shoos out JACOB.*)

ROSE RED. Buff, are you alright?

MISS MUFFET. What do you think? I'm (*Suddenly happy:*) awesome! Finally I'm getting some press! Can you believe it? Now everyone will know Little Miss Muffet! The Grimm Brothers offered to buy my life rights! They want to write a famous poem about me!

MR. BLUSH. Good for you!

MISS MUFFET. Rosie, I totally won't forget you. Even though I'm famous now, I'm not going to forget my real friends.

ROSE RED. That's comforting.

SPIDER. (*In Miss Muffet's bag:*) Hey! Let me outta here!

MISS MUFFET. Oh, almost forgot!

(*MISS MUFFET takes the SPIDER out of her bag. NOTE: If played by a puppet, SPIDER can be operated by MISS MUFFET. If played by an actor, change lines and blocking to allow for SPIDER to enter.*)

SPIDER. 'Bout time!

MR. BLUSH. (*Backs away, frightened:*) A spider!

MRS. BLUSH. (*Rolling up a newspaper:*) I'll handle this!

MISS MUFFET. No! No, no, no! He's cool!

ROSE RED. He is?

SPIDER. Of course I am! Who do you think came up with the whole "tuffet scare" plan anyway?

ROSE RED. You faked it?

SPIDER. "Fake" is such a horrible word. We prefer "embellished."

ROSE RED. So it didn't really happen?

MISS MUFFET. Didn't it? I was there, the spider was there. There were curds. There was whey. Who's to say what really happened on that tuffet?

SPIDER. Anyway, I gotta go. Nice working with ya, kid. Looking forward to my twenty-five percent of those royalty checks.

MISS MUFFET. Twenty-five?! We agreed on twenty!

SPIDER. That's before I came up with mixing the curds in the whey. That's worth five more percent right there!

MISS MUFFET. Whatever.

(MISS MUFFET tosses the SPIDER up and over behind her. As the family tries to get the SPIDER out of the house, he is dangled toward the audience several times [hopefully to get a reaction from the children] by various cast members. MRS. BLUSH tries to stomp on it, while MR. BLUSH leaps up on a chair. The SPIDER is finally tossed offstage. If played by an actor, have the family chase him around, trying to stomp on him.)

MR. BLUSH. (*Frightened, jumps up on a chair:*) Where did he go?!

MISS MUFFET. Hey! Stop trying to stomp on my costar!

MR. BLUSH. Is it gone?!

MRS. BLUSH. Yes, dear. You can get down now.

(She helps MR. BLUSH off the chair and they exit.)

MISS MUFFET. Isn't this great?!

ROSE RED. I'm really happy for you, Buff. I know this is what you wanted.

MISS MUFFET. Thanks, Rosie.

(CINDERELLA rushes into the house.)

CINDERELLA. Yo, yo, yo! Did you hear?! Hansel and Gretel got lost in the woods, stopped at the witch's crib, she tried to cook them into gingerbread, and they were like, "This is whack!" And they pushed her into the oven, then they got busted by the po-po for trespassing and killing the witch, but got off on "self defense" and now they're chillin' at a press conference to announce a reality show based on their lives!

JACOB. (*Pops in from under the Blush's table:*) Hooray!

ALL. (*Except ROSE RED and MISS MUFFET, improvised excited hubbub:*) I can't believe it! Those poor children! That witch got what she deserved! I wonder what they're going to wear to the press conference? Etc., etc.

(*ALL except ROSE RED and MISS MUFFET rush out the front door.*)

MISS MUFFET. (*Furious:*) Come back! What about the spider! He totally bit me! He assaulted me! And it was a spider gang! Like, twenty spiders all bit me on the face! Come back here!

(*Rushes out the front door after the crowd.*)

ROSE RED. Wait, didn't they go out into the woods *yesterday*?

(*She flops down on the couch.*)

And they wonder why I don't want all that?

(*FROG appears.*)

FROG. Hey there, Rose. Why aren't you next door at Hansel and Gretel's house?

ROSE RED. Why aren't you?

FROG. All those people running around, nobody's looking out for a frog under their feet.

ROSE RED. Very true. The thing is, I'm really happy for Buff and Hansel and Gretel. They totally wanted fame, and now they have it, and that's awesome.

FROG. But you'd rather be alone in the house talking to a frog.

ROSE RED. Why not? You're nice and interesting. I'm nice and interesting. Why do we need to be famous, too?

FROG. I couldn't agree more.

ROSE RED. You do?

FROG. Sure. I see how hard your sister and all the others have to work just to keep in the public eye. And for what? No privacy? Not for me.

ROSE RED. So what do you do when everyone around you is trying to make you into something you're not?

FROG. Just be myself. And when they see that I'm not trying to be something I'm not, they move on.

ROSE RED. I don't know. That seems a little too simple.

(She gets up, goes to the kitchen and takes an apple.)

Want an apple?

FROG. No thanks. Too many vitamins and minerals. Flies are where it's at.

ROSE RED. Gross.

(Goes to bite into the apple, but stops.)

Speaking of gross, there's a worm in this apple!

(JACOB and MR. BLUSH rush into the house.)

JACOB. There's a worm in the apple!

MR. BLUSH. See, Rosie? I knew you could do it!

ROSE RED. Do what?!

JACOB. Did the worm speak to you!?

ROSE RED. No!

JACOB. Did you bite the worm in half?

ROSE RED. No!

JACOB. Did the worm try to attack you? Or did it act in self-defense?

ROSE RED. Neither!

JACOB. My sources tell me the worm is accusing you of attempted murder. Comment?

(He instantly whips out a newspaper with the headline "Rose Vs. Worm—Apple Death Match!!")

Hot off the press!

MR. BLUSH. *(Reading headline:)* "Rose Vs. Worm—Apple Death Match!" Oh, this is so exciting! You know, I brought that apple home from work!

ROSE RED. How did you print that so fast...?

JACOB. Get ready for those offers to pour in, Miss Blush. We're going to make you famous, whether you like it or not!

JACOB / MR. BLUSH. Hooray!

(JACOB *exits in a rush.*)

ROSE RED. Not! I choose not!

MR. BLUSH. Rosie, this is the break we've been waiting for! I'm so proud of you. I knew you were destined to do something very important. I wished so hard for this...

(FAIRY GODMOTHER *pops up in the window.* FAIRY GODMOTHER THEME MUSIC *plays for a beat.*)

FAIRY GODMOTHER. You're welcome!

ROSE RED. Wait, you can't put a wish on me if I didn't wish it!

FAIRY GODMOTHER. Your father wished it for you. Gotcha on a technicality, sweetie! (*She pops out.*)

MR. BLUSH. I'm going to go tell your stepmother! (*Exits.*)

(SNOW WHITE, CINDERELLA, and GOLDILOCKS *enter.*)

SNOW WHITE. (*Not so excited:*) Good job, kid.

CINDERELLA. (*Not so excited:*) Yeah, good job.

GOLDILOCKS. (*Not so excited:*) Just keep away from Baby Bear. For real. He's married. To me.

ROSE RED. Guys, you know I don't want this. I'm more than happy to watch you get all the attention.

CINDERELLA. (*Happy again:*) You are? Your sister is so smart!

ROSE RED. They just made all that stuff up anyway. They're blowing it totally out of proportion.

GOLDILOCKS. Made it up? The press wouldn't do that!

ROSE RED. Totally made up. I mean, yes, I picked up an apple, and I was about to bite it. But all that other stuff is completely fake... Hey, wait a minute. If they made up stuff about me, then...

SNOW WHITE. What do you mean?

ROSE RED. Maybe they made up stuff about...

CINDERELLA. Oh, no you didn't!

GOLDILOCKS. Rose, what are you saying?!

ROSE RED. Well, did they? Did they make up stuff about you, and you're just not saying anything because you like being famous?

(*All three girls cross their arms and stare at her, angrily.*)

ROSE RED. I see.

CINDERELLA. Let's bounce, Goldi.

(CINDERELLA and GOLDILOCKS exit.)

SNOW WHITE. Good job, sis. Way to go.

ROSE RED. What did I do?

SNOW WHITE. Why can't you just play along? Like everyone else does?

ROSE RED. But you're all lying! I bet you didn't even eat that poisoned apple. I bet you just got busted for taking a nap in that glass coffin, so you let the Grimm Brothers spin it so it sounded cooler.

SNOW WHITE. Okay, maybe I exaggerated it a little bit! So what? It's not hurting anybody.

ROSE RED. That's not the point. Does father know about this?

SNOW WHITE. People love to hear about famous people. And we love being famous. It works out for everybody. So stop being impossible and get with the program! (*Exits.*)

ROSE RED. I'm impossible? This whole thing is impossible! What am I supposed to do now?

FROG. Like I said, be yourself. Show everybody who you really are, and all that other stuff will fall away.

ROSE RED. "Be yourself," says the frog who is actually a guy.

FROG. I don't have control over my situation, but you do. So take control and stop letting other people tell you who you are.

ROSE RED. You're right. You really are smart for a frog.

FROG. On the outside, frog. Inside, all man.

(MR. and MRS. BLUSH enter.)

MRS. BLUSH. Alright Rose, it's time for your press conference!

ROSE RED. My what?

MR. BLUSH. Press conference! It's time to speak to your public.

ROSE RED. I have a public?

MR. BLUSH. Of course you do! And it's time to speak to them, greet them, and tell them about your plans, your likes, your dislikes, favorite food, most embarrassing moment, all that good stuff that fans just eat up!

MRS. BLUSH. Here comes Mr. Grimm!

(JACOB enters holding a magic iMirror which he uses as a TV camera. SNOW WHITE, CINDERELLA, and PRINCE CHARMING ONE [and all other cast members depending on doubling] enter. CINDERELLA holds a large doll [or rolls on a mannequin] dressed to look like PRINCE CHARMING TWO. MR. BLUSH puts ROSE RED up on a chair as everyone gathers around her.)

JACOB. Okay, when we broadcast, just look into the mirror, not at me. Act naturally. Speak as if you were speaking to your closest friends. Don't be nervous. We're only broadcasting to over a million people. Okay, we're going live in five, four, three... (*Mouths the words and uses fingers to indicate "two, one."*) This is Jacob Grimm for WGRM News. I'm speaking to Ms. Rose Red Blush, who recently had an altercation with a very vindictive worm. Ms. Blush, you've gained quite a bit of recognition at a very young age. Considering your accomplishments so far, what would you like to say to your fans out there?

ROSE RED. Uh, well...I'd like to say...to be yourself.

ALL. (*"Oooh" and "Ahh" over this advice.*)

JACOB. Can you elaborate?

ROSE RED. Well, a very smart person, er, frog once told me—be yourself. And I think that means being true to yourself, which means telling the truth. So, I have a truth to tell everyone.

(*Everyone leans in, waiting for her wisdom.*)

ROSE RED. I didn't try to murder the worm.

ALL. (*Say the word:*) Gasp!

ROSE RED. I barely even bit into the apple, and none of that other stuff printed in the paper is true. It's all exaggerated or made up.

JACOB. Are you accusing the press of stretching the truth?

ROSE RED. Yes I am.

ALL. (*Shocked outcry.*)

CINDERELLA. So you're not really famous?

ROSE RED. I guess not.

CINDERELLA. (*To Prince Charming Two doll:*) Let's get out of here, Prince. She's buggin'!

(*LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD rushes in.*)

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. Help! A wolf ate my grandmother! He's still at her cottage!

**THIS PLAY IS
NOT OVER!**

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