Hansel & Gretel and the Creepy Woods
by Jeannette Jaquish
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READER
HANSEL
GRETEL
STEPMOM
FATHER
WITCH
ELF 1 – Bossy
ELF 2 - Smelly
ELF 3- Twitchy
ELF 4 - Clumsy
ELF 5 - Narcolepsy
ELF 6 - Whiny
ELF 7- SNEEZY – Actions but no lines
FAIRY DOG MOTHER
FAIRY FROG MOTHER

(PROPS: Big pot, potato & carrot, 2 hankies for Sneezy. Dog’s & Frog’s wands optional.)

READER: This is the story of Hansel and Gretel and the Creepy Woods, as adapted by Jeannette Jaquish.

Once upon a time, a long long time ago, there lived a brother and sister named Hansel and Gretel.

HANSEL: I’m Hansel.
GRETEL: I’m Gretel!
HANSEL: We’re Hansel and Gretel!

READER: Yes, just as I said. They lived in a cottage in the woods with..

HANSEL: I’m Hansel.
GRETEL: I’m Gretel!

READER: Enough! They lived in a cottage in the woods with their father who loved them very much, and their stepmother who had her sanity to consider.

STEPMOM: Husband! Your children are driving me crazy. I’m Hansel! I’m Gretel! Take them into the woods and leave them!

FATHER: But they’ll get hungry.

STEPMOM: Don’t worry. A nice witch will feed them gingerbread.

FATHER: Oh. They like gingerbread. OK! Come on kids!

READER: So the stereotypically clueless father took Hansel and Gretel far far away and left them. However, he made one mistake. Instead of taking them out into the WOODS...

GRETEL: Why did Daddy leave us in the weeds?

HANSEL: Ow! It’s all stickery.

READER: Hansel and Gretel stood around in the prickly stickly weeds waiting for their father.

GRETEL: Ow!
HANSEL: Ow!
GRETEL: Ow!
HANSEL: Ow!

READER: Finally, Gretel realized he was not coming back.

GRETEL: Daddy is not coming back! How will we find our way back to our house?

HANSEL: Look, it’s right over there. You can see it!

READER: So they walked home and jumped on the couch and got stickers all over it.

(JUMPING)
HANSEL: I’m Hansel! Hansel! Hansel!
GRETEL: I’m Gretel! Gretel! Gretel!
HANSEL & GRETEL: We’re Hansel!
Hansel! Hansel! and Gretel! Gretel! Gretel!!

READER: Their stepmother heard the noise and came out to see.

STEPMOM: Ohhhh, they’re back.

READER: Their stepmother had a splitting headache when she called her husband.

STEPMOM: HUSBAND!

FATHER: Yes, dear?

READER: She told him where to take those noisy children.

STEPMOM: Take those noisy children over the hill and deep into the forest and leave them!

FATHER: But they’ll get hungry.

STEPMOM: Don’t worry. Seven little dwarves will feed them.

FATHER: Oh. They’d like that. OK! Come on, kids! (STEPMOTHER EXITS.
FATHER leads H&G through the audience.
CURTAIN CLOSES - change set.)

READER: So their father took them oooooooover the hill ... and through twisted, scary trees.. past the dens of hideous, smelly, unsupervised creatures, who watched them as they passed (children look at audience fearfully)..... to a clearing. Their father patted them on the head, and gave them some words of wisdom.

FATHER: Say hello to Sneezy for me. Bye kids! (EXITS)

READER: Their father headed home wishing HE was going to have gingerbread for breakfast.

FATHER: Mmmm... gingerbread.

READER: Hansel and Gretel stood around as the forest got darker and darker.

HANSEL: I’m Hansel.

GRETEL: I’m Gretel.

(pause)

READER: Hansel and Gretel stood around as the forest got darker and darker. The crickets chirped. (Elves chirp.) The owls hooted. (Elves hoot.) The moon came out. (Elves sing “Aaaah!”.) The wolves howled. (Elves howl.)

CREEPY CREATURES start crawling thru the audience.)

DANCE OF THE SCARY CREATURES
(MUSIC UP: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, by Tchaikovsky, performed by Kevin MacLeod -- 1min 47 sec.)

READER: Hansel and Gretel began to realize the danger they were in.

HANSEL (shivering): I’m Hansel. . . .

GRETEL (shivering): I’m Gretel. . . .

(CREATURES creep closer, dancing, circling Hansel & Gretel who look genuinely afraid.)

(start singing as glockenspiel begins)

CREATURES sing:
Huddle closer, Children,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
Very far from home.
(Oboe descends)

It is getting darker,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
You are all alone;
(Oboe descends)
Silly children, wake up,
You don’t know,
you don’t know,
you don’t know,
What is in the woods.
Build a fire,
Climb higher,
Find a way to, SURVIVE!

(0:40 to 0:47 strong violins, then violas -
CREATURES surge closer forming a
ring around H&G, circling, claws
up.)
HANSEL - Do you hear the branches
breaking?

(0:47 to 0:51 violin surge)
GRETEL - Something flew across
the moonlight.

(0:51 to 0:54 violas - no singing)

(0:54 to 1:00 violin surge)
HANSEL - I hear breathing, I smell
danger, I can’t stay awaaaake.

(1:00 - dreamy glockenspiel
- HANSEL & GRETEL slump to the
ground asleep.
CREATURES in circle turn facing out,
protectively.)

CREATURES sing:
Huddle closer, Children,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
Very far from home.
(Oboe descends)

There are dark things, lurking,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,

in the Woods,
Eat you to the bone;
(Oboe descends)

Silly children, sleeping,
We will stay,
We will watch,
We will fight,
What is in the woods.

With our sharp teeth,
With our long claws,
We will help you, SURVIVE!
Rahrrr! (CREATURES RUN EXIT!)

READER: Yawn! Oh, my! It’s morning! I
must have fallen asleep!
Looks like it was an uneventful night. Gretel
shook Hansel awake

GRETEL: Hansel, it’s morning.

HANSEL: I’m hungry. What’s for breakfast?

WITCH (entering): You are! Heee Heee
Hee Hee! Oh, I mean you delicious, I mean
darling, children are HAVING breakfast
with me!

READER: Hansel and Gretel introduced
themselves.

HANSEL: Hi! I’m Hansel.
GRETEL: Hi! I’m Gretel!
HANSEL & GRETEL: We’re Hansel and
Gretel!

WITCH: And I’m a nice old lady. My house
is over here... through those trees....

HANSEL: I’m Hansel.
GRETEL: I’m Gretel!

WITCH: Enough! Walk this way...
(WITCH walks bent over in a funny manner;
HANSEL & GRETEL walk like her in a
funny way to her “house” back at center
stage.
The CREATURES live there as pets and stay in the background watching, scratching, sleeping and reacting.)

READER: The nice old lady was really a wicked witch who liked to eat children. She took them into her house. Gretel looked around.

GRETEL: I thought you would have a gingerbread house.

WITCH: Oh, the property taxes on that thing were killing me!

READER: Hansel was getting hungrier so he asked again:

HANSEL: What’s for breakfast?

WITCH: Something delicious, but first you must wash up.

READER: The witch invited them to hop into a big pot of hot water. She said:

WITCH: Scrub a dub a dub, into the tub!

GRETEL: Why are there carrots and potatoes and celery...

HANSEL: floating in the bathtub?

WITCH: Oh, hee hee hee hee. Those are bath toys!

READER: So Hansel and Gretel, who never were the brightest candles on the cake, hopped into the pot.

(HANSEL rubs potato under arms like soap. Gretel uses carrot in ear like a Q-tip. Do this right and you’ll get a huge laugh!)

HANSEL: Splash splash splash. Look Gretel, my potato is a submarine. Ping ping ping.

GRETEL: Look Hansel, my carrot is a torpedo! Ka-bloosh!

READER: The witch added some salt and spices.

GRETEL: What are you sprinkling on us?

WITCH: Just some bath salts. Hee hee hee...

GRETEL: Oh! (Splash splash splash)

READER: There was a knock at the door.

WITCH: Who’s there?

(Elves march in singing a marching chant.)

ELF 1: I don’t know but I’ve been told!

ELVES: Leprechauns got pots of gold.

ELF 1: But do not grab one by the leg.

ELVES: Their feet smell like rotten egg!

ELF 1: One, two and three, four!

ELVES: Guess who’s knocking at the door!

ELF 1: Five, six and seven, eight!

ELVES: Dwarves don’t like their supper late!

ELF 1: Sound off

ELVES: One two!

ELF 1: Sound off

ELVES: Three Four

ELF 1: Sound off

ELVES: Five Six - - Seven Dwarves!

(Elf 1 stops, 2 & 3 stops, 4 crashes into them, rebounds back and all fall. Elf 1 jumps up.)

ELF 1: Attention! (Elves jump to attention.) Pleased to meet you! I’m Bossy!

ELF 2: I’m Smelly.

ELF 3: I’m Twitchy.

ELF 4: I’m Clumsy.

ELF 5: I’m Sleaveeeepyyyy (falls asleep)

ELF 6: I’m Whiny.

ELF 7: I’m.. I’m... I’m... Aaaachoo!

(Elves jump up.)

ELF 1: And he’s –

ELVES: SNEEZY!!!

(Elves jump up.)

ELF 1: We’re here to wish you a good day!

ELF 2: We live in a cottage down the way.

ELF 3: We were just passing by when we came under the spell,

ELF 4: Of a most delicious, bewitching smell.
ELF 5: Of cinnamon, fingers and margarine,
ELF 6: So if you don’t mind, may we come in?

WITCH: You are in!

READER: Hansel jumped up and hollered.

HANSEL: Hey! Sneezy!

SNEEZY: Aaaachoo! (Wipes nose with hanky and waves it.)

HANSEL: My dad says hi!

READER: The seven dwarves were real moochers!

(ELVES search front row of audience.)

They started scrounging around for something to eat. They hadn’t had a hot meal since Snow White married the Handsome Prince and moved away. But all they found were hideous gargoyles!

ALL ELVES (face to face with audience): EEEEEK! (ELVES run back to stage.)

READER: That caused some confusion. And instead of finding food they found:

(pantomiming finding these things: )

ELF 1: Spider legs in the cupboard!
ELF 2: Frog tongues in the refrigerator!
ELF 3: Monkey ears in the toaster!
ELF 4: Rabbit teeth in the candy dish!
ELF 5: Hissing cockroaches in the cookie jar!
ELF 6: Sugarless candy corn!
ALL ELVES: Sugarless candy corn??? Blecch!

ELF 1: Why do people buy that stuff?

READER: But the dwarves knew they smelled something good. They followed their noses until they found...

(ELVES go to both sides of pot.)

ELF 1: A big pot of soup!

HANSEL & GRETEL: Soup? Where? I’m hungry!

ALL ELVES: Children Soup!

HANSEL & GRETEL: Eeeeeeek!

READER: The dwarves tried to rescue the children. Unfortunately they weren’t very organized.

(Dwarves pretend to pull on both arms of children, left, right, left, right.)

READER: But they only made it worse. The dwarves yelled for the children to get out!

ELF 2: Get out of that soup pot!
ELF 3: That witch wants to cook and eat you!

READER: But the children had been in the hot water too long.

GRETEL (wiping brow): I’m melting....

HANSEL: Me tooooo....

(HANSEL & GRETEL faint over edge of pot)

READER: Hansel and Gretel fainted in the hot water! And it was getting hotter! The dwarves tried to lift them out.

ELF 1: 1, 2, 3, Lift!

READER: But the witched flapped her arms and yelled:

WITCH: Stop that right now!

READER: The leader of the Elves was very brave!

ELF 1 (in her face): Let them go you mean ol’ witch!

WITCH: YOU let them go or I’ll turn you all into dwarf hamsters.

HANSEL: Dwarf hamsters are so cute.......

WITCH: Bite-size dwarf hamsters. Yum.

ALL ELVES (jumping back): Eeeek!
READER: The Elves let go! They were afraid to be turned into hamsters. Their leader had an idea. She told Gretel:

ELF 1: Gretel! Call on your Fairy Godmother!

ALL ELVES: Gretel! Gretel! Wake-up!

ELF 1: Gretel! Call on your Fairy Godmother!

ALL ELVES: Gretel! Gretel! Wake-up!

GRETEL (groggy): Calling Fairy Dog Mother...

READER: In a blinding flash of light there appeared:

DOG (leaping onto stage): Woof!

ELF 1: What are you?

DOG: Gretel’s Fairy Dog Mother!

ELF 1: No No! Gretel! Call on your Fairy GOD MOTHER!

GRETEL: Calling Fairy Frog Mother....

READER: And with another blinding flash of light:

FROG (leaping onto stage): Kribbit!

ELF 1: What are you?

FROG: Gretel’s Fairy Frog Mother!

ELF 1: No No! Gretel! Call on your Fairy GOD MOTHER!

GRETEL: Snore!

READER: Gretel’s snoring shook the house!

ELF 4: She’s asleep!

ELF 5: She can’t call anyone!

ELF 4: How about Hansel? Could HE call HIS Fairy God Mother?

ELF 5: He would probably call his Fairy Hamster Mother!

ALL ELVES (nodding): Yeah....

READER (walking across stage gesturing): This looks bad! Hansel and Gretel are almost gravy and instead of a fairy godmother, we have a Fairy Dog Mother...

DOG: Woof!

READER: ... and a Fairy Frog Mother!

FROG: Kribbit!

READER: It looks like there will be no happy ending to this story. The elves burst into tears.

ALL ELVES: Boo-hoo-hoo-hoo!

ELF 6: This is terrible, terrible, terrible!

READER: The Fairy Dog and Fairy Frog Mothers looked at each other.

FROG: Well this is a pretty mess!

DOG: You said it, Wonder Warts. I guess it’s up to us.

FROG: Right you are, Magical Mutt. Do you know what to do?

DOG: Sure do. Let’s roll! (DOG & FROG roll.)

READER: The Fairy Dog Mother cast a spell on the Wicked Witch giving her fleas and allergies.

DOG (waving paws): Fleezus-Sneezus! (shakes)

WITCH: Ha ha! Dog magic? (sarcastic) Oh, I’m sooo afraid! Ha ha ha! So... so... so... Itchy! Itchy! Itchy! Aaachoo! Aaachoo!
*(SNEEZY hands a hanky to the Witch who blows a raspberry into it and tries to hand it back.)*

SNEEZY: Yuck! *(SNEEZY jumps back in disgust and the Witch drops it on the floor.)*

READER: The Fairy Frog Mother hopped over to the pot and said these magic words:

FROG: Hoppus Ploppus Stoppus!

READER: She hopped into the pot splashing Hansel and Gretel out in a huge tidal wave!

*(FROG jumps in – HANSEL & GRETEL jump out. ELVES fall down in the tidal wave.)*

READER: The dwarves cheered!

ALL ELVES: Yay! 1, 2, 3 --
     Go Fairy Frog! Kribbit Kribbit Kribbit!
     Go Fairy Dog! Woof Woof Woof!

READER: The Wicked Witch ran off to jump in the river to drown her fleas....

WITCH: Oh, I’m so itchy itchy itchy... *(EXIT)*

READER: and Hansel and Gretel recovered from their soup induced heat stroke. They introduced themselves to the elves.

HANSEL: Hi! I’m Hansel.
GRETEL: Hi! I’m Gretel!
HANSEL & GRETEL: We’re Hansel and Gretel!

ELF 1: Hi! We’re the seven dwarves.
ELF 2: You might have heard of us in the story of Snow White.
ELF 3: Once upon a time a long time ago...

HANSEL: I’m Hansel.
GRETEL: I’m Gretel!
HANSEL & GRETEL: We’re Hansel and Gretel!

ELF 1, 2 & 3: Enough!
FATHER: Enough! Stop saying the same thing over and over. You are driving us crazy!

GRETEL: Ok, Daddy! Would you like to talk about biology, instead?

HANSEL: Or architecture?

STEPMOM: Oh, I love biology and architecture! Let’s go down to the pond and catch frogs and build sandcastles!

(STEPMOM, HANSEL & GRETEL, go to side, pantomime.)

GRETEL: I’m making a princess castle.
STEPMOM: The archway is very graceful.

HANSEL: I’m making my dungeon first.
STEPMOM: It is very deep. You are doing a good job.

READER: And then a magical thing happened. When the yammering stopped, their stepmother magically turned into a loving caring person. It was magic.

FATHER: No.... I don’t think that was magic.

READER (lifts arm): And they all lived...

(ACTORS run onstage. Reader cues them when they are ready by dropping arm.)

ALL: ..Happily ever after!

Author’s Notes

Hansel and Gretel say “I’m Hansel. I’m Gretel.... on and on until someone says “Enough!”

If actors forget lines, Reader can prompt them by saying, for example: “Hansel said, “Remember us?..” Reader prompts them as if it was written in the story – just the beginning of the line is usually enough -- and as soon as the actor catches on and says their line, the Reader is quiet.

When Father takes Hansel and Gretel into the Woods, he can take them out into the audience.

Big Pot need not be a pot. Can be painted & cut cardboard mounted on a stand on a big plastic storage tub.

Using real potato and carrot is easiest. The potato will serve day after day, but carrots wilt by next day if not refrigerated.

Creatures Song to the music of:
“Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies” by Tchiakovksy
performed by Kevin MacLeod
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