

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

Lisabeth Sewell McCann, Sparkle Stories

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHARACTERS:

Father/Wizard

Mystical Fairy 1

Mystical Fairy 2

Mystical Fairy 3

Fool 1

Fool 2

Mischievous Fairies 3

Fairy King

Fairy Queen

Fairy Court

Love-Sick Royal

Musician

Young Daughter (2)

Musical Fairy

SCENE 1: "My daughter, my art"

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

WIZARD

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

Good. Then lend me your hand.

Tonight – this night of Hallow’s Eve –
there is to be a Festival in the Royal Yard –
music, dancing, revelry, players and MAGIC.
Tonight -- the most unbelievable Halloween Spectacle the King has ever seen.
His young princes will laugh in wild amazement.
'Tis mine own art that creates it.

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

Now, you must know
on this eve,
we are such stuff as dreams are made on.
The Veils between us and the Fairies world is thinnest,
and you can hear them making their music in the woods.
Lucky souls can see them.

As did my good daughter.
But methinks they have enchanted her ear, and she has forgotten herself,
Forgotten her father,
And forgotten this Hallow’s Eve.
She joins the fairies revels,
When she is meant to join ours.

What’s more she is to be crowned Queen of Halloween!
And without the Queen,
the music will be muted,
the dancing will pale,
the players will lilt,
and the magic will be snuffed.

The hour is nearly come, and I am without her.

Will you help me to find her travellers?
Will you search hither and yon, and bring her back to me?

Bring her back, and bring back the magic for all!

If you are lucky, you too may hear the music of the fairies.
Sweet airs, delightful sounds, poetry and song.
It may be strange to your young ears, but worry you not:
Just listen gently
And you will be filled with wonder and amazement.

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

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

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

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

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**SCENE 2:
the Mystical Fairies**

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

MYSTICALS

(singing)

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

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

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

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

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

MYSTICAL 1

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

(The children answer. The Mysticals listen intently.)

MYSTICALS

(singing or toning)
Ahhhhh..... *(as in "I understand")*

MYSTICAL 2

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

MYSTICAL 3

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

MYSTICAL 1

A charm of crimson pebble
to render them invisible?

MYSTICAL 2

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

MYSTICAL 3

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

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

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

(She passes out small pinecones to each of the children. The other 2 Mysticals begin to hum the tune of the song they sing below.)

MYSTICAL 2

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

MYSTICAL 1

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

MYSTICALS

(chanting)

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

MYSTICALS

(singing)

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

(The travelers head off to the Station Three.)

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SCENE THREE – the FOOLS

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

FOOL 1

A light.

FOOL 2

A watch.

FOOL 1

A mole.

FOOL 2

A match.

FOOL 1

A wall.

FOOL 2

A wager

FOOL 1

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

FOOL 1

Travelers! Ho!

FOOL 2

Rest you a moment! Stay!

FOOL

Tell us of your travels!

FOOL 2

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

Be not afeard;

this wood is full of noises,

Sounds and sweet airs,

that give delight and hurt not.

(The Fairies appear and make their music.)

FOOL 2

There it is!

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

FOOL 1

Where should this music be?

In the air or the earth?

(They listen. To the travelers:)

FOOL 1

Do you hear it?

Yes!

(The music stops and the Fairies disappear.)

FOOL 2

It sounds no more. 'Tis gone.

FOOL 1

Hence we have follow'd it,

Or it hath drawn us, rather.

FOOL 2

Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments

Will hum about mine ears, and sometime voices --

FOOL 1

But it is the tune of Nobody!

FOOL 2

SPARKLE HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Nobody!
Nobody is there!

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

FOOL 1
It begins again.... Listen!

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

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

FOOL 2
You saw?
And what was't?

FOOL 1 and 2
(listening to the children, and then repeating after whatever the travelers have said)
Fairies! No.
(Improvising in response to the travelers.)
Could it be? Etc.

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

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

FOOL 2
May it leave us be!
We must find our way out of this Royal Wood --
and back to the Wizard, for tonight's
celebration of Hallow's Eve!

FOOL 1
Wherever it is that you are going,
Good travelers,
You will need something to keep you
From floating off with the Fairy Music.

(He picks up pouches filled with polished stones.)

Take these. One, each of you.
These will bind you to the ground,

And keep you on your path.
(Repeat as necessary to make clear to the whole group.)

FOOL 2
Off you go!
Listen to the sweet airs of the night,
But follow not!
Keep your stones, and
Stay to the path of lights.
Farewell!

(The travelers go off to the Scene 4.)

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SCENE FOUR – the Fairy Queen and Fairy King

(The travelers come upon the Fairy Queen and King, in their woodland Fairy Court. They are clearly having a bit of an argument.)

FAIRY KING
How canst thou say, my Queen,
That I am no more powerful than a stick?
Dids't I not make stars shoot madly from their spheres,
And teach the moon to look lovingly on thee?

FAIRY QUEEN
Thou dids't.
I doubt not those acts.
Only to say that I,
As Queen of Fairy Realm,
Have more to do than you,
Good King,
Who sits upon the throne day and night,
Plucking at flowers,
And sending Fairies to do your bidding.

FAIRY KING
You torment me!
I did entrance thee once,
With juice from a love-wild flower.
And made thee to forget thyself completely.

FAIRY QUEEN
Tush Tush.
Thou dids't.
But only for love of me.
Your powers only go so far

As they should circle round and round my head
And make me dizzy.

FAIRY KING

Argh-

FAIRY QUEEN

But look –

We have visitors.

Travelling folk, it seems.

Human mortals.

(to the visitors)

Forgive, for we have fallen out.

The Fairy Queen and King

Have had a fight.

But he will make amends.

FAIRY KING

Not I-

FAIRY QUEEN

(holding up a hand to shush him)

Their brows are furrowed.

They are thick with thinking.

What search you here in this Fairy Land?

Why come you?

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

FAIRY QUEEN

Ah, A wandering girl has followed fairies.

My good fairies, I'll warrant you.

Sweetest music do they make!

Enchanting even the stones upon the ground.

FAIRY KING

(interrupting)

They were mine, forsooth;

Enchanting young mortals is the King's business—

FAIRY QUEEN

(ignoring him)

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

Do you know your way through this wood?

I shall help.

For I have gift of sight.

FAIRY KING

And I -

For I have gift of knowing.

FAIRY QUEEN

(closing her eyes)

A wandering girl in Fairy Wood....

Yes there she is, upon the grass,

Listening to one who plays upon a pipe.

FAIRY KING

(closing her eyes)

And she is happy, yes, delighted

With a heart of such sweet tenderness.

She has a way with Fairy Folk.

FAIRY QUEEN

She is not far,

Just past the glade--

FAIRY KING

And o'er the hill—

FAIRY QUEEN & KING TOGETHER

You'll find her,

Sitting stone still,

And listening

To our fairies music.

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

FAIRY QUEEN & KING TOGETHER

Follow the fire-lit path.

That way. *(They point in unison.)*

FAIRY KING

Come, my queen, take hands with me,

Now thou and I are new in amity,

All's well.

Our powers we will share

To make the best for people everywhere.

FAIRY QUEEN

Come, my lord, and let us see

that hands together joined be.

We the globe can compass soon,

Swifter than the wandering moon.

FAIRY KING

(turning to the travelers)

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

Let you all rewarded be.
A magic gem have I for you,
That will keep you safe and brave and true.

Here, partake!

(The King and Queen pass out magic gems to the travelers.)

FAIRY QUEEN

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

And celebrate this wondrous Eve
of Halloween!

FAIRY KING

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

(The travelers follow the path to SCENE 5.)

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SCENE 5: The love-sick DUKE

(The Duke reclines in a regal chair, while a musician plays for him. He listens and sighs a lovesick sigh, and tilts his head as the musician plays. The travelers approach.)

DUKE

If music be the food of love, play on!
Give me more and more and more!

(hearing the music)

That phrase again! Such dear, sad notes.
It came o'er my ear like the sweetest sound,
as a bank of violets in the spring sunlight
Or the cool breezes of autumn,
rustling the leaves in the trees.

Oh travellers, come sit and rest with me
That we may feel the sweet pangs of love!

Listen!

(He listens only for a moment and speaks again.)

O spirit of love! How quick and fresh art thou!

(The song comes to an end. Before this point, if the children try to speak, he hushes them with "Still! Still!" and "Wait, but for a moment!". DUKE speaks to the travelers.)

Ah.

Is it love that brings you to the forest too?

Do you long to sit and be filled with sweetest love?

To smell the smells and feel the breezes of this middle autumn night?

Do you come for love of this?

No?

You come not for love?

Then, why comest thou here?

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

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

And who is it that seeks her?

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

Why camest she here?

Ah, no doubt this girl is beloved by her father.

But it was for the love of the fairies music that she came.

And the fairies music is enchanting.

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

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

Let us think –

we need a song of wandering

But returning to where one is loved best.

We need a song of home,

and of a child's love for their mother and father.

We need a song that will capture her heart!

(to the musician)

Let us hear a song

For the love for a girl, wandered into the woods,

A song that will make her long for home.

SPARKLE HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Yes, there you go. And we shall sing.

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

Sing with me.

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

(They sing together.)

Sing it with all the love in your heart!

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

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

This gift will help you to remember
What is most important.
Take now, one for each.
And remember: Sing with LOVE!

(The Duke hands out love charms to the travelers.)

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

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

Much luck to you,
And remember: LOVE!

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

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SCENE SIX: the ADVENTUROUS WIZARD's DAUGHTER

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

DAUGHTER

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

Such beautiful music you make!

(When they are done singing, she realizes:)

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

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

The fairy music! Of course! The fairies!

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

(amazed) O, magical world that has such creatures in't! Goodbye! Goodbye!

(To the travelers.)

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

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

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

Let me reward you, my good friends,
Once we have found the circle of celebration.
As you have done me a great kindness!

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

SPARKLE HALLOWEEN EVENTS

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

Come, come my friends! Let us catch all the fun!

(Together they exit the forest to the Hallow's Eve Festivities, and she hands them beautiful leaves as their reward.)

Goodbye my friends! Thank you! And goodbye!

I am off to find my father!

May this eve be full of magic and sweet music

And may you revel in the delights of Halloween!

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

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END OF PLAY