

THE CURSED CASTLE

A Children's Play

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

SCARLETT:	Young peasant girl. Big sister to Isabella. Somewhat serious, brave, and protective of her little sister.
ISABELLA:	Younger peasant girl. Little sister to Scarlett. Playful, curious, and looks up to her older sister.
REINDEERCATACORN:	An intelligent, friendly, talking creature that looks like a reindeer with cat ears and a horn. This is actually Princess Julianne, transformed by an evil spell long ago.
PRINCESS JULIANNE:	Ageless princess who has been release from a long-ago-cast spell that made her look like a reindeer with cat ears and a horn.

SYNOPSIS

Two young sisters traveling to get their poor family some food, happen upon a castle where their curiosity gets them into trouble, but their kindness earns them a forever friend.

TIME

A long time ago...

SETTING

...in a faraway land.

ACT I
Scene 1

SETTING: Outside and close to (and later inside of) a Castle

AT RISE: Isabella and Scarlett, dressed in clean but very worn clothes, are walking and talking. Scarlett has a worn satchel with magic beans inside.

ISABELLA

Sister, where are we going again?

SCARLETT (annoyed)

I told you, Isabella...We're going to take these beans to town and sell them.

ISABELLA

And they're magic beans, right?

SCARLETT

That's right.

ISABELLA

If they're so magic, why don't we just plant them?

SCARLETT

That's not how they work. But they are valuable. (pause) Now, less talking. More walking.

ISABELLA

(pause) And we're selling the magic beans so we can buy food for Mommy and Daddy because they're so hungry and weak?

SCARLETT (sarcastic)

We're all hungry and weak.

(Seeing this makes ISABELLA worried she ruffles ISABELLA'S hair.)

Don't worry. We'll sell them and buy lots of food. We'll all be ok. (to herself) For a while.

ISABELLA

What kind of food are we going to get?

SCARLETT

I don't know. Maybe some apples? (pause) I miss apples.

ISABELLA

Mmmm...Apple pie.

SCARLETT

And apple tarts.

ISABELLA (like it's a contest)

Apple cake and apple crumble.

SCARLETT

Apple crisp.

ISABELLA

Apple cider. Apple Ummm...Apple...Apple...

SCARLETT

Is that all you can come up with?

ISABELLA

Ummm...Apple hugs?

(ISABELLA gives SCARLETT a big hug. SCARLETT laughs and hugs her back.)

SCARLETT

Silly girl. Let's keep moving.

ISABELLA

Hey Sister, what's that over there?
(Pointing to the castle.)

SCARLETT

Why...it's a castle. That's funny. I don't remember seeing a castle here before.

ISABELLA

Can we go in it, sister? Please?

SCARLETT

I guess we can. But for just a bit. Come on.

(SCARLETT and ISABELLA enter the castle. REINDEERCATACORN is next to a chair, unnoticed by SCARLETT and ISABELLA.)

ISABELLA

Wow. It's so big! I bet you could really get lost in here. This looks like a fancy living room.

SCARLETT

It's the cleanest room I've ever seen. It looks like a princess used to live here.

ISABELLA

What's that over there? By that chair? Is it a dog?

SCARLETT

No, silly. Dogs don't have antlers!

ISABELLA

Is it a reindeer?

SCARLETT

No silly. Reindeers don't have cat ears!

(REINDEERCATACORN comes out into the middle of the room, which unintentionally scares SCARLETT and ISABELLA.)

REINDEERCATACORN

What about my horn? It's my best feature!

SCARLETT

(Protectively stands in front of ISABELLA and holds her hand up to REINDEERCATACORN to indicate not to come closer.)

Stay back, beast!

REINDEERCATACORN

I'm not a beast! I'm a friend. My name is Reindeercatacorn. What are your names?

SCARLETT

I'm Scarlett and this is my little sister, Isabella.

(ISABELLA waves a little waive at REINDEERCATACORN.)

SCARLETT (Cont.)

We're on our way to town to get food for our family, so...we have to go now.

REINDEERCATACORN

That's probably for the best. This castle is dangerous!

ISABELLA

Awww...Sister, can't we look in just one more room? We're always so busy being hungry that we never get to have any fun. Please?

SCARLETT

Well, ok. But just for a moment.

REINDEERCATACORN

Don't go in that room!

ISABELLA

With my big sister in charge, we'll be fine!

(SCARLETT and ISABELLA enter a door followed by REINDEERCATACORN.)

ISABELLA

Who's that over there?

SCARLETT

That looks like a sleeping princess!

ISABELLA

And who are those people over there?

SCARLETT

That looks like a queen and a king!

REINDEERCATACORN

That's not really the princess or the royal family. You're seeing a memory of the past. Long ago I was cursed to never leave this castle, reliving these memories, my heart breaking over and over again.

ISABELLA

That's so sad.

REINDEERCATACORN

This entire castle is haunted by these memories.

ISABELLA (worried)

Haunted? Sister, maybe we should go!

SCARLETT (bravely)

Don't be silly. There's no such thing as haunted!

REINDEERCATACORN

It's true! It's part of the spell the Red Witches put on this castle!

ISABELLA (worried)

Red Witches? Sister, maybe we should go!

SCARLETT

Don't be silly. There's no such thing as witches!

REINDEERCATACORN

It's true! You should leave before something bad happens to you!

SCARLETT

There are no witches, and the castle is not haunted! I'll prove it! Let's go through the next door.

REINDEERCATACORN

I highly recommend that you turn back now...before it's too late!

ISABELLA

With my big sister in charge, we'll be fine!

(SCARLETT and ISABELLA enter a door followed by REINDEERCATACORN. There is a red balloon floating behind and above a chair.)

ISABELLA

What's that over there?

(Points to the red balloon.)

REINDEERCATACORN

It's a Red Witch!

SCARLETT

Don't be silly. That's just a balloon!

(The red balloon floats down behind the chair.)

ISABELLA

Hey, where did it go? I'm gonna go find it!

(Skips over toward the chair to look for the balloon.)

REINDEERCATACORN

Isabella! No!

(A now large group of evil red balloons floats up behind and above the chair. SCARLETT and ISABELLA scream.)

REINDEERCATACORN (shouting)

Run! It's the Red Witches! Run for your lives!

(REINDEERCATACORN runs one direction and disappears off stage. SCARLETT and ISABELLA run a different direction together and stop abruptly at an edge of the stage. During the following, the evil red balloons disappear.)

SCARLETT and ISABELLA

No way out!

(SCARLETT and ISABELLA run a different direction and stop abruptly at an edge of the stage.)

SCARLETT and ISABELLA

No way out!

(SCARLETT and ISABELLA run a different direction and stop abruptly at an edge of the stage.)

SCARLETT and ISABELLA

No way out!

SCARLETT (breathing heavily)

You were right. This is such a big place it's hard not to get lost! I don't know which way is out!

(REINDEERCATACORN enters, looking around wildly for SCARLETT & ISABELLA.)

ISABELLA

Oh no! What are we going to do?

REINDEERCATACORN

Girls! Follow me! I know a way out!

(SCARLETT & ISABELLA run, following REINDEERCATACORN, until they all make it out of the Castle, to the place the play began, and they all collapse on the ground, exhausted.)

ISABELLA

Wow. That was a close one!

SCARLETT

You got that right. If it weren't for Reindeercatacorn, we would never have made it out alive!

REINDEERCATACORN

You (cough, cough), you were both so (cough) brave. (cough cough)

ISABELLA

Reindeercatacorn! What's wrong?

REINDEERCATACORN

I think (cough) this is (cough, cough) the end of the road for me. (cough)

(REINDEERCATACORN passes out.)

ISABELLA

Oh no! Wait. Sister, what does “end of the road mean”?

SCARLETT

I think it means she’s dying. But why?

ISABELLA

I know why. Remember when she told us she was cursed to never leave the castle? And now, because of us...Oh please don’t die Reindeercatacorn! Sister, what can we do?

SCARLETT

I don’t know. (pause) Wait! We could feed her our magic beans. That might save her.

ISABELLA

But don’t we need the magic beans to sell for food? Won’t we all starve without them?

SCARLETT

It’s a chance we’ll have to take. Reindeercatacorn warned us but we wouldn’t listen. She didn’t have to save our lives, but she did. (pause) We don’t have to save hers, but we should try.

ISABELLA

Yes, sister! Let’s try!

SCARLETT

(Pulls the magic beans out of her satchel.)

Alright. Let’s do this together.

(SCARLETT and ISABELLA both hold the beans over REINDEERCATACORN’S mouth.)

SCARLETT & ISABELLA

One. Two. Three!

(On three SCARLETT and ISABELLA put the magic beans in REINDEERCATACORN’S mouth and moments pass with no reaction.)

ISABELLA (starting to cry)

Oh no. The magic beans aren’t working. What else can we do?

SCARLETT (sadly)

I don’t think there’s anything else we can do. Reindeercatacorn has climbed the golden staircase.

ISABELLA

Oh no! (pause) Wait. What does “climbed the golden staircase mean”?

SCARLETT (sadly)

It means she has (paused) died. I’m so sorry sister.

(Suddenly REINDEERCATACORN jumps up and runs off stage.)

ISABELLA

Wow. I guess it worked after all!

SCARLETT

I guess it did! I’ve never been so glad to have been wrong!

ISABELLA

I wish Reindeercatacorn hadn’t run off so quickly. I wanted to give her a nickname.

SCARLETT (chuckling)

Yea...Reindeercatacorn is quite a mouthful.

(PRINCESS JULIANNE enters.)

PRINCESS JULIANNE

Quite a mouthful indeed!

(SCARLETT & ISABELLA react with no fear, but with great surprise.)

PRINCESS JULIANNE (Cont.)

Instead of calling me Reindeercatacorn, from now on you can both call me Princess Julianne.

SCARLETT

Princess Julianne? Wait...you’re Reindeercatacorn?

PRINCESS JULIANNE

One in the same. Long ago the Red Witches, jealous of our simple happy lives, attacked the castle, put a spell on the royal family, and turned me into a creature that was half reindeer, half cat, and half unicorn.

SCARLETT

That’s a lot of halves.

ISABELLA

Reindeer. (pause) Cat. (pause) Unicorn. (pause) Now I get it!

SCARLETT

So...it's all true? The witches, the spells, the haunting?

PRINCESS JULIANNE

All true. But you have broken the spell and banished the witches! With your family on the brink of starvation, you used your magic beans to save me rather than to buy food for yourselves. A true act of selflessness. You have saved us all!

ISABELLA

Wow! I didn't know we were doing all that!

PRINCESS JULIANNE

Indeed. And, in return, you both have my eternal friendship. I insist you and your parents move into the castle and live with me and the rest of the royal family forever! We have lots and lots of food.

SCARLETT & ISABELLA

(Look knowingly at each other and then back at PRINCESS JULIANNE.)

Got any apples?

PRINCESS JULIANNE

Apple trees as far as the eye can see. You'll never be hungry again.

END