

WITCHAPALOOZA

By Kamron Klitgaard

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SYNOPSIS: Welcome to the Annual Witches of the [Name of your town or school] Coven Conference! The witches have gathered in the forest to discuss their new strategy for capturing children and turning them into tasty treats. But Jack the witch-hunter has found out about their meeting and enlists the help of all the children in the audience to trick the witches and create a brew that will destroy them once and for all. As it turns out, the witches' greatest weakness is candy! But Jack hits a snag as he falls in love with a member of the coven of witches. See for yourself why *Witchapalooza* is so much interactive fun!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 females, 3 males)

JACK (m).....	Witch hunter. <i>(111 lines)</i>
HANSEL (m).....	German child. <i>(37 lines)</i>
GRETEL (f).....	German child. <i>(75 lines)</i>
HELGA (f).....	The Grand High Witch. <i>(101 lines)</i>
WILLOW (f).....	Witch inventor. <i>(78 lines)</i>
LUNA (f).....	Moon-obsessed witch. <i>(73 lines)</i>
ZELDA (f).....	Allergic witch. <i>(58 lines)</i>
SABRINA (m).....	A manly male witch and defensive about being male. <i>(49 lines)</i>
BRUNHILDE (f).....	Jokester witch. <i>(47 lines)</i>
SCARLET (f).....	A good witch – falls in love with Jack. <i>(127 lines)</i>

ALL LINE COUNTS ARE APPROXIMATE

DURATION: 75 minutes

SETTING

A witch's lair in the forest with a cauldron and a large cage made from sticks and branches.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Audience participation is written into this play but it is completely optional. Whenever the script uses children from the audience, the option would be to use plants or have the characters of Hansel and Gretel do all the audience participation parts. However, using the children in the audience is simple and adds a lot of energy to the production.

PROPS

- A bag of witch's spell ingredients (or things that could resemble):
 - ◆ Vial of powder
 - ◆ Frog's wart
 - ◆ Entrails
 - ◆ Dog tongue
 - ◆ Fly wing
 - ◆ Vial of blood
- Hand mirror
- Smoke machine (optional)
- A "kidding" pole (A stick, candy bar and string)
- 7 magic wands
- Candy bar
- Chair
- Rope
- Flyer advertising the witches conference
- A sign that reads "Candy Night! Free Candy!"
- 6 containers full of candy
- Plate of gummy worms covered with a cloth

SET PIECES

The only mandatory set pieces are a witch's cauldron on a small table or something to raise it off the ground, and a cage made from sticks and branches to capture the children. Any other set dressing could be used to indicate a witch's lair in the middle of the forest.

SOUND EFFECTS

- THUNDER AND LIGHTNING SOUNDS
- MAGIC SOUNDS
- JUNGLE SOUNDS
- CIRCUS MUSIC
- DISCO MUSIC
- BALLET MUSIC
- HEAD BANGER MUSIC
- CANDY NIGHT MUSIC

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

- SCENE 1: Willow, Luna, Zelda, Sabrina, Brunhilde, Helga
SCENE 2: Scarlet, Jack, Hansel, Gretel
SCENE 3: All characters
SCENE 4: Scarlet, Jack, Hansel, Gretel
SCENE 5: All characters
SCENE 6: Scarlet, Jack, Hansel, Gretel
SCENE 7: All characters

SCENE 1

SETTING: *A witch's lair in the forest with a cauldron and a large cage made from sticks and branches.*

AT RISE: *A blood-curdling witch's cackle! WILLOW enters laughing and heads toward the cauldron.*

WILLOW: Now, to add the final ingredients and the spell will be complete! Here we are. Powdered lizard's leg. *(Dumps a vial of powder into the cauldron.)* Frog's wart. Yuck, they always stick to your fingers. *(Drops wart into cauldron.)* Entrails, dog tongue and the fly wing. *(Drops them into cauldron.)* And don't forget the Baboon's blood. *(Pours it in.)* Now for the most important ingredient of all – the light of the moon! *(Pulls out a hand mirror and reflects the moonlight into the cauldron.)* And poof! *(Nothing happens.)* Hello? Did it work? Luna? Are you here? Luna? Luna, I need to talk to you before the Grand High Witch arrives. Where are you, Luna? Oh! I forgot the most important part! All spells have to rhyme! Let's see, what were the ingredients? Frog, fly, lizard, dog, baboon, okay got it!

Powdered lizard's leg in you go
Wart of frog, stir to and fro
Poisoned entrails in the pot
Wing of fly that I did swat
Tongue of dog and baboon's blood
Now take a whiff, it smells like crud
Before arrives the big kahuna
I call forth my best friend Luna!

SFX: *Thunder and lightning. LUNA appears in a puff of smoke.*

LUNA: Willow!

WILLOW: Luna!

LUNA: How did I get here? Did I miss the meeting?

WILLOW: No, no. You're early. I did a spell!

LUNA: A spell? I wanted to ride my broomstick!

WILLOW: Your broom hasn't worked in years.

LUNA: I've been practicing. I've been watching Harry Potter and he doesn't grip it as low as me; he sort of chokes up and when he leans he –

WILLOW: Would you shut up about the broom? The Grand High Witch and all the others will be here soon and I need your opinion.

LUNA: About what?

WILLOW: Let me show you! First, we need one of those. *(Points out into audience.)*

LUNA: Well, that's just it isn't it? And how do you propose that we get one?

WILLOW: Watch this.

WILLOW grabs a stick from the front of her hair which has a string attached at the end like a fishing pole. A candy bar is tied where the bait would be. She hands it to LUNA.

LUNA: What is this?

WILLOW: I'll get it up here, then you use this stick to lure it into that. *(Points to the cage.)*

LUNA: And how is this supposed to lure it into that?

WILLOW: Just be ready and follow my lead.

WILLOW pulls out a single candy bar, goes into the audience and finds a child audience member volunteer. She tries to lure him/her up onto the stage with the candy bar. She ad-libs to get the child up on stage dangling the candy bar in front of him/her.

LUNA: Amazing! It wants that thing you're holding. I got one at the end of this string! Oh, I get it! Here little boy/girl. Here it is. This is what you want.

LUNA uses the candy bar dangling from the stick to get the child audience member to walk into the cage. WILLOW slams the gate.

WILLOW: Gotch-ya!

LUNA: Amazing!

WILLOW: Quick! Do a locking spell on the door. And remember all spells have to rhyme.

LUNA: I know all spells have to rhyme. That's basic spell-casting! I'm not a nincompoop, you know. I mean, if I went around not rhyming my spells I wouldn't get very far, would I? It's one of the first things we learn as witches. Rhyme your spells, rhyme your spells; they beat it into you—

WILLOW: Alright! Just cast the spell before s/he gets away.

LUNA: Okay, let me just ready my wand.

We caught you kid, you are our score

I wave my wand and lock the front entry way!

WILLOW: Oh, for Ursala's sake!

LUNA: What? That should've worked!

WILLOW: Luna, you do not have the gift of rhyme. Score! Score!
You were supposed to rhyme with score!

LUNA: Really?

WILLOW: I'll bet that kid could even do it. Hey kid, what's your name?
[Ad-lib about the kid's name.] Listen [kid's name], can you think of a word that rhymes with score? Here, fill in the blank:

We caught you kid, you are our score

I wave my wand and lock the _____.

They wait for the child audience member to say something. If s/he says "door," then a MAGIC SFX happens and they go on. If s/he says something else, they ad-lib around until they get the kid to say "door."

See?

LUNA: That does sound better! Nice job kid. So, what is this thing at the end of the string? How did you know s/he would be tempted by it?

WILLOW: That's what I want to present to the Grand High Witch at our annual conference. It's called... I like to do a dramatic pause right before I say it... candy!

LUNA: Candy! Oooo! I like the sound of that. *(Trying to open the candy.)* Let me try it!

WILLOW: No! You can't eat it! Only to the child is it a delicious treat.
The price to pay for a witch to snack is certain death!

LUNA: *(Releasing the candy.)* I see! So...

WILLOW: Yummy cakes for them; tummy aches for us!

LUNA: Willow, did you just cast a spell?

WILLOW: No, no, that was just a coincidence.

LUNA: Ah. Now that we've caught him/her, let's eat him/her!

WILLOW: This one's much too scrawny. Unlock the gate and throw him/her back.

LUNA: But I'm hungry.

WILLOW: Just do it. And remember the unLOCKing spell must rhyme.

LUNA: (*Readying her wand.*) Oh, yes, I get it – un-LOCK-ing spell.

Un-LOCK. Oh, yes. I completely understand. Here goes the un-LOCK-ing spell.

Outside this cage you cannot... WALK
Unless this door I do un... deadbolt.

Wait, is that right? That doesn't seem right.

WILLOW: Help her out [child's name].

Outside this cage you cannot walk
Unless this door I do un_____.

They wait for the child to say "lock." There is a MAGIC SFX. WILLOW opens the gate and tempts the child out with the candy.

WILLOW: Come on out, [child's name]. I have a nice little treat for you!

LUNA: You're such a clever little boy/girl. And you look so tasty. Let's just have a bite.

WILLOW: Look at his/her arm; it's nothing but skin and bone. This one needs to fatten up first.

LUNA: How long will that take?

WILLOW: I'd say about four years and seven cavities.

LUNA: (*Grabbing the child's hand.*) I can't wait that long! What about a finger? I just want to eat one finger.

LUNA brings the child's finger to her mouth but WILLOW stops her.

WILLOW: Uh-uh! You don't want to make a mess before the Grand High Witch arrives.

LUNA: Oh, alright.

WILLOW: Back to your parents, [child's name]. And take this with you. Remember, the more calories the better. *(Give's the child the candy and nudges him/her back to his/her seat.)* Don't worry, Luna. There are a lot more out there with a lot more meat on them. And we have the means to catch all the children we can eat.

WILLOW holds up the stick fishing pole with the other candy bar. They both cackle. Suddenly, there's a puff of smoke and ZELDA, BRUNHILDE and SABRINA appear with SFX: THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.

LUNA and WILLOW: Zelda!

ZELDA: Hello, Luna, Willow. It's wonderful to see you again. I love these annual witch conferences, don't you? Getting the old gang back together after all these months, next year we must hold it at my lair, I just planted these lovely thistle patches running along the front walk and... wait a minute... oh no... aaaaah...

LUNA: What's the matter?

ZELDA: Aaaaaah...

WILLOW: You're not going to....

ZELDA: Aaaaaah... *(Daintily.)* Choo!

SFX: MAGIC SOUND.

LUNA: You better watch that sneeze. You'll turn someone into a kitty cat.

ZELDA: A warthog.

WILLOW: A what?

BRUNHILDE: That was one of her warthog sneezes. Someone somewhere just got turned into a warthog.

LUNA: *(Peering into the audience.)* Oh, yeah. I see him right there. *(Points to man in the audience.)* I like warthogs. *(Waves to him.)*

WILLOW: Brunhilde, how long has it been?

BRUNHILDE: Too long, darling. Say, I wrote some new jokes since we last met.

ZELDA: Here it comes.

BRUNHILDE: Okay, okay. Why don't witches wear flat hats?

WILLOW: I don't know, Brunhilde, why don't witches wear flat hats?

BRUNHILDE: Because there's no point in it.

BRUNHILDE cackles uncontrollably. The others don't even smile.

Get it? No point? Because our hats have points? Oh, that's a good one. Okay, here's another one. How do you make a witch itch? Take away the "w."

LUNA: Alright, let's get back to—

BRUNHILDE: Wait, wait! One more: How do you make a child float? *(They just look at her.)* One child and two scoops of ice cream! *(Cackles uncontrollably.)*

WILLOW: So, who is this?

SABRINA steps forward.

ZELDA: This is my cousin.

LUNA: It's a boy!

WILLOW: A boy witch? I thought all the boys were warlocks.

SABRINA: *(Defensive.)* No, no! Boys can be witches! There're boy witches. There are a lot of 'em actually. So I'm a witch. Okay? It's not a big deal!

WILLOW: What's your name, witch?

SABRINA hesitates.

ZELDA: Tell 'em, cuz.

SABRINA: Fine. My name is... Sabrina.

They all laugh.

LUNA: Sabrina?

SABRINA: Okay, so what? My mom always wanted to have a witch and so when I came out she named me Sabrina and dressed me up like this. I don't see what the big deal is. Jeez! Why does everyone think it's so weird for a boy to be a witch!? I am so sick and tired of hearing all this boy/girl witch/warlock talk and people making fun of me! You ought to try being me and getting your broom repaired or your hat shaped. The tailor looks at me like I'm some kinda freak! I'm sick of it. (*Hyperventilating.*) I AM SICK AND TIRED OF IT!!! IF I HAVE TO HEAR ABOUT IT ONE MORE TIME I'M GONNA SCREAM!!!

WILLOW: You're right. It's not a big deal. We're sorry. Sheesh.

ZELDA: Calm down, Sabrina. Control your breathing. There, there. Good. That's better.

BRUNHILDE: Hey, Sabrina. What did the boy witch say to the girl witch? Wanna be broommates? (*Cackles uncontrollably.*)

SABRINA: Like I haven't heard that one before.

WILLOW: So, did you all come by broomstick?

BRUNHILDE: No, we witch-hiked. Ha!

ZELDA: That's enough, Brunny. Why don't we... oh dear. Not again... Aaaaah...

LUNA: She's gonna blow!

SABRINA: Take cover!

They all run for cover.

ZELDA: Aaaaah...

WILLOW: Anything can happen!

BRUNHILDE: Maybe we should put something in her nose!

ZELDA: Aaaaah...

LUNA: I'm not going near that thing!

ZELDA: ...Choo!

SFX: MAGIC SOUND. They come out of hiding except WILLOW.

LUNA: Is everyone alright?

SABRINA: Yeah, what happened? Where'd the magic go?

BRUNHILDE: Everyone make sure you have all your limbs.

ZELDA: Maybe I turned the warthog back into a human.

LUNA: Oh, let's take a look. *(They all peer into the audience.)* There he is. Hmm. I can't tell.

WILLOW: *(Moving and talking in slow motion.)* Hhheeeeeellllppppp!
lllllllllllll caaaaaannnnn't mmmmmooooooovvvvve!

BRUNHILDE: That's what her sneeze did?

SABRINA: A slow motion spell.

WILLOW: Uuuuuunnnn-doooooo iiiiiiit.

ZELDA: Someone cast a counter-spell.

LUNA: Oh let me, let me!

WILLOW: Noooooooooooo!

LUNA: Don't worry, Willow. I can do it. She thinks I'm not a strong rhymer.

ZELDA: Just make sure the last word of your first sentence is an easy word to rhyme with; something simple.

LUNA: *(Waving her wand.)* Alright, here goes.

She dresses up in all that purple... doh!

SABRINA: *(Waving his wand.)* I'll do it.

Luna lacks skill as a spell caster
So I'll help Willow to move faster

SFX: MAGIC SOUND. WILLOW moves normally.

WILLOW: Thanks Sabrina. Not bad for a...

SABRINA: *(Offended.)* For a what? What were you gonna say?

WILLOW: I was just gonna say for a witch with shorter hair, that's all. Short-haired witches aren't normally known for their spell-casting abilities.

SFX: THUNDER AND LIGHTNING with big puff of smoke.

ZELDA: The Grand High Witch! She's here!

HELGA appears in the smoke. The others grovel.

BRUNHILDE: *(Groveling at her feet.)* Oh, Your Most High Grandness. We're not worthy of your elegant presence. You're so grand and so high and so... witchy.

HELGA: That's why I'm up here, and you're down there. Arise, my fellow witches. No need to grovel.

As she stands, BRUNHILDE gets too close to HELGA'S fingernails.

Aaaaaaaaahhh! Don't touch my nails. I just had them done. (*To her nails.*) Oh, are you alright, my poor little poopsie woopsies? Did that bad witch almost touch you with her nastiness? Don't worry my babies, my little snuggie wugglies.

The others give each other cuckoo looks.

Look at these. (*She displays her nails.*) You see the exquisite paint, the eloquent design? There are no nails like these in the entire world! Now, let the conference begin.

WILLOW: Excellent, Helga, I mean, Grand High Witch Helga.

HELGA: Helga will do. No need to be so formal, darling. Just don't touch my nails.

WILLOW: Of course. Since I'm hosting this year's conference I thought we could all stand around the cauldron.

HELGA: Very good. Everyone around the cauldron.

They form a semi-circle around the cauldron with HELGA in the center.

ZELDA: Before we start, can I ask how you grow your fingernails so long?

HELGA: Pig vomit.

WILLOW: Pig vomit?

HELGA: Yes, you simply dip your nails in pig vomit.

LUNA: Are you telling us that pig vomit smeared on your fingernails makes them grow?

HELGA: No, but it keeps you from biting them. Now, I hereby call the Annual Conference of the Coven of the Witches of [Insert your town or school] to order. The first item of business: New members.

ZELDA: Yes! We have one. I would like to present my cousin for membership in this coven. This is Sabrina.

HELGA: Very good, Sabrina, step forward and we shall administer the... (*Getting her first look at him.*) Oh badness gracious. You're a... you're a...

SABRINA: A what? I'm a what? What is the problem?!

ZELDA is waving HELGA off behind him, pantomiming not to talk about it.

HELGA: You're a... uh... rather tall witch. Yes, that's it, a tall witch aren't you?

SABRINA: That depends on who I'm standing next to.

HELGA: Yes, well, are you ready to take the witch's oath?

SABRINA: Sure, let's do it.

HELGA: Raise your right hand into the witch's honor sign.

SABRINA makes a circle with his thumb and forefinger and sticks his nose through it.

Good, now repeat after me, I...

SABRINA: I...

HELGA: State your full name...

SABRINA: ...Sabrina Juliet Isabella Lisa Proctor...

The others snicker.

What? What's so funny?

HELGA: Nothing, nothing. Let's proceed... Do hereby proclaim membership...

SABRINA: Do hereby proclaim membership...

HELGA: In the [Insert your town or school] coven of witches.

SABRINA: In the [Insert your town or school] coven of witches.

HELGA: And by so doing...

SABRINA: And by so doing...

HELGA: ...embrace sugar and spice and everything nice...

The others snicker.

SABRINA: Sounds a bit strange for a witch, but whatever... embrace sugar and spice and everything nice...

HELGA: ...and...

SABRINA: ...and...

HELGA: ...willingly forfeit all legal rights to...

SABRINA: ...willingly forfeit all legal rights to...

HELGA: ...snips and snails and puppy-dogs' tails.

The others start laughing.

SABRINA: What?! What is so funny? Is my fly down or something?!

They laugh harder.

HELGA: It's just a laughing spell. Happens every initiation. Continue please.

SABRINA: ...snips and snails and puppy-dogs' tails. There, anything else?

HELGA: No, that will do. We welcome Sabrina into the coven. And now we come to the part of devious schemes. I would like to pose an important question: What do witches eat?

LUNA: I know! Children!

HELGA: Correct, Luna. And what do we eat apart from children?

They all think but no one answers.

Exactly... absolutely nothing. This means that if a witch's only food source is children, then it is vital that we be able to capture them. The problem is, to a child, witches are scary looking, so they don't want to come near us.

BRUNHILDE: That whole "don't talk to strangers" nonsense isn't helping much either.

HELGA: That is why I assigned each of you, at the last meeting, to come up with a new and creative way to capture children. But before we begin, I would like us all to go into the woods and search for children so that we might have some subjects to experiment with.

ZELDA: Brilliant! And after we've experimented?

HELGA: We dine, of course.

They all cackle and then head out into the audience searching for children. Eventually they exit.

SCENE 2

SFX: THUNDER AND LIGHTNING and a puff of smoke and SCARLET appears.

SCARLET: I'm here, I'm here! Hello? Oh don't tell me I'm so late I missed the meeting? I'm gonna be in so much trouble.

SCARLET sits down and takes off her witch hat. She tosses it away. HANSEL and GRETEL enter the audience. They talk to audience members.

HANSEL: I am Hansel!

GRETEL: Ja, ja! Und [pronounced: unt] I am Gretel!

HANSEL: I like candy!

GRETEL: Ja, ja! Und I like candy!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! Ve like candy!

SCARLET: Hello? Is anyone out there?

GRETEL: Ja, ja! Ve are out here! Look Hansel, ein fräulein.

HANSEL: Ja, ja! Ein fräulein!

They approach SCARLET.

GRETEL: Halo, fräulein.

SCARLET: Oh, hello. Two little children!

HANSEL: Ja, ja! Ve are little!

GRETEL: Und ve are children!

SCARLET: Oh, two little German children! Aren't you precious!

HANSEL: Nein! She is precious! I am adorable.

SCARLET: You're both just so cute!

GRETEL: Ja, ja! I am Gretel.

HANSEL: Und I am Hansel.

SCARLET: Hansel and Gretel? How delightful. I could just eat you up.

GRETEL: Ve are lost!

HANSEL: Ja, ja! Ve are lost!

They sniff in unison.

SCARLET: Oh no, you can't find your parents?

GRETEL: Nein! Ve can't find candy!

HANSEL: Ja, ja! Ve are hungry.

SCARLET: Oh, don't worry, I'll help you. My name is Scarlet. First, we'll find you something to eat and then we'll find your parents.

HANSEL: Ve get to eat?

GRETEL: Candy?

SCARLET: We'll see. I think your parents would rather you eat a proper dinner before you have dessert.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! Ve like dessert.

HANSEL: I don't like bread crumbs.

JACK enters.

JACK: Hansel, Gretel, there you are! Your father is worried sick.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Guten tag, Jack!

GRETEL: Ve are hungry!

HANSEL: Ja, ja! Ve are hungry!

JACK: You're always hungry. Don't you know there could be witches about? Oh, hello... I didn't see... *(Stunned by her beauty.)* My name is Jack.

SCARLET: *(Stunned by his handsomeness.)* Oh hi, I'm Scarlet. What was that thing you said about witches?

JACK: Which thing?

SCARLET: Yes.

JACK: What?

SCARLET: That thing?

JACK: Which thing?

SCARLET: Yes.

JACK: I'm sorry, I must be flabbergasted; or under some sort of spell.

SCARLET: Well, I didn't do it.

JACK: Of course, I'm sorry. What did you ask me?

SCARLET: You said something about witches.

JACK: Oh, yeah. Hansel and Gretel, you need to get home before you're captured by witches!

SCARLET: Don't be silly, what would witches want with two adorable...

HANSEL: Und precious!

SCARLET: ...and precious little children?

JACK: Eat them, of course!

SCARLET: Eat them? That's disgusting.

JACK: Scarlet, that's what witches do, they eat children.

SCARLET: That's ridiculous.

JACK: You obviously haven't had much experience with witches.

SCARLET: Oh, really.

JACK: Witches are terrible, awful, vile creatures, who only exist to cause others misery.

SCARLET: (*Irritated.*) Is that so?

JACK: Oh, yes. Witches are mean and nasty and very, very ugly.

SCARLET: (*Insulted.*) What? They can't all be ugly.

JACK: You obviously haven't seen a witch before. They're the ugliest creatures on the planet.

SCARLET: Oh yeah? What about inexperienced witches?

JACK: What do you mean?

SCARLET: What if there was a certain witch that didn't know she was a witch for a long time, most of her life even, and then suddenly realized that she was a witch and didn't know very much about being a witch and was still trying to learn, like a witch-in-training, but she had a good heart and only wanted to do good and would certainly never even think of eating children. So basically, she was a good witch.

JACK: She'd still be ugly.

SCARLET: Why?!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! Why?!

JACK: Because there are no such thing as good witches.

SCARLET: What about Glinda?

JACK: Glinda?

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! Glinda!

SCARLET: The witch of the north?

JACK: From the "Wizard of Oz"? Scarlet, that was a movie. We need to stick with reality.

SCARLET: Yeah Hansel, yeah Gretel, stick with reality.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! Reality!

SCARLET: My point is that you can't just judge all witches if you don't even know them.

JACK: Fine. Next time I find a witch that isn't disdainfully ugly and not trying eat children all the time I will refrain from hunting it and I'll sit down and have a cup of tea with her.

SCARLET: You hunt witches?!

JACK: *(Striking a hero's pose.)* Yes. I'm Jack the witch-hunter.

HANSEL and GRETEL: *(Cheering.)* Yay! Jack da vitch-hunter.

SCARLET: Oh my! I think I'm gonna be sick.

JACK: That's exactly how witches make me feel.

SCARLET: *(Hyperventilating.)* How many witches have you slain?

JACK: Plenty. And now I'm on the trail of the worst witch of all. See, witches are very tricky. They cast spells, and ride on brooms, and hide in the forest. They're very difficult to find. But I've learned that they're having their Annual Coven of [your town or school] Witches meeting right here in these woods. That's why I'm here. I'm going to find that meeting and when I do, those witches will get exactly what they deserve!

SCARLET: *(Turning her back to him.)* I think I'd like you leave now.

JACK: What?

SCARLET: *(Crying.)* You're horrible. I never wanna see you again.

JACK: Scarlet. What did I do? Did I say something wrong?

SCARLET: Just go!

JACK: But... I... come on Hansel. Come on Gretel. Let's get you home.

HANSEL: Ja, ja! I am Hansel!

GRETEL: Ja, ja! Und I am Gretel!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ve like candy!

HANSEL, GRETEL, and JACK exit. SCARLET retrieves her hat, sits and cries.

SCENE 3

All the witches enter.

HELGA: Right this way, ladies... I mean witches. I think we've found that there are plenty of children around these parts. We will be feasting all night and long into next week.

LUNA: I can't wait!

They all cackle.

ZELDA: And who's this?

SCARLET stands.

HELGA: Scarlet! You made it. I was afraid you'd lost your way again. Everyone, this is Scarlet, my niece.

SCARLET: It's nice to meet you.

BRUNHILDE: It's nice to meet you! Ha!

WILLOW: She's not very ugly, is she?

HELGA: She has recently discovered that she's a witch! She doesn't know much about being a witch so she's here to learn. Scarlet, you're just in time to hear all the new ideas on how to capture children.

SCARLET: Capture children? Why on earth would we want to do that?

BRUNHILDE: Why on earth – ha! That's a good one!

HELGA: Sabrina, let's hear your idea.

SABRINA: Alright. How about this? I travel to the other side of the forest. I pull out my flute and play a magical little ditty that enchants the children to follow me back here and right into your clutches.

ZELDA: I like it.

BRUNHILDE: It'll never work.

LUNA: Why not?

BRUNHILDE: Because if he gets lost he won't stop for directions.

HELGA: And what have you got for us, Brunhilde.

BRUNHILDE: I was thinking that we could build a large wooden horse. Then we push it to the edge of town. The townsfolk will think it's a gift and so they'll come out and bring it inside the town. Then, after everyone has gone to sleep, all the children jump out of the horse, and we eat them.

ZELDA: What?

BRUNHILDE: No, wait. I said it wrong. It's a large metal horse.

HELGA: I hope everyone's ideas are... better. Luna, what do you have for us?

LUNA: Forgive me, your grand highness, but I think we should hear Willow's plan. I'm certain it's the best one because I've already seen it work!

HELGA: Is this true, Willow?

WILLOW: Well, as a matter of fact, yes! Let me show you!

WILLOW grabs the stick with the candy bar tied to it.

SCARLET: I still don't understand. Why are we catching children?

ZELDA: We're witches, dear. That's what we do!

HELGA: Badness gracious, what's that contraption?

WILLOW: If we were catching fish it would be a fishing pole, but we're catching kids so I call it a kidding pole.

BRUNHILDE: I like the sound of that.

HELGA: And what is that dangling at the end of the string?

WILLOW: It's called... candy!

HELGA: And where do you get it?

WILLOW: Any convenient store.

HELGA: Alright, what's next.

WILLOW: I have discovered that children love... candy! So what we do is—

LUNA: Enough talk, Willow, just show her!

WILLOW: Right. Everyone stand back, you don't want to frighten the little monsters.

The witches step back as WILLOW dangles the candy bar over the edge of the stage, tempting the children in the audience. She can ad-lib for a bit until HANSEL and GRETEL enter the audience singing.

HANSEL and GRETEL: La, la...

They find a child in the audience and talk to him/her.

HANSEL: Guten tag! I am Hansel!

GRETEL: Ja, ja! Und I am Gretel!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ve like candy!

GRETEL: Do you like candy?

They wait for his/her answer.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! S/he likes candy!

HANSEL: What is your name?

They wait for his/her answer.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! His/her name is [child's name].

GRETEL: Vill you help us find candy, [child's name]? Ja, ja! S/he vill help us find candy!

They help him/her out of the chair.

HANSEL: Hey, [child's name] undt Gretel, if I put candy in my mouth it tastes yummy. My teeth are always in my mouth too but they don't taste yummy. In fact, my teeth don't have any flavor at all. Do your teeth taste yummy?

GRETEL: Nein! My teeth don't taste like anything. What about yours, [child's name]?

They wait for a response.

HANSEL: That's too bad. I wish my teeth tasted like chocolate!

GRETEL: I wish my tongue tasted like gummy worms!

HANSEL: Ja, ja! Das ist gut!

GRETEL: Let's find some candy, ja?

HANSEL: Ja, ja!

GRETEL locks arms with the child audience member and they approach the stage. They see the dangling candy bar at the end of WILLOW'S kidding pole.

GRETEL: Candy!!!

GRETEL and the child follow the candy bar as WILLOW guides them up on to the stage and into the cage. LUNA slams the gate shut. Meanwhile, HANSEL is recruiting another kid from the audience.

LUNA: Gotchya!

HELGA: That was so simple! Here, let me try.

WILLOW gives the kidding stick to HELGA.

HANSEL: *(To the child he's recruited.)* Let's find some candy! I see some! I see some!

They follow the candy up onto the stage and into the cage where LUNA slams the door.

LUNA: Yum! Yum!

SABRINA: Ha! Ha! Ha! We're going to eat you!!!

SCARLET: What do you mean?

HELGA: It's your final step in becoming a full-fledged witch, Scarlet. Children are the most delicious and tasty delicacy a witch can eat. In fact, they're the only thing we eat. Yes, we're gonna fry 'em up and chomp 'em down!

BRUNHILDE: I'm afraid we'll have to eat these little ones raw.

ZELDA: Why is that?

BRUNHILDE: Because it's not Fry-day! Ha! Get it? Fry-day? Ha, ha, ha! Fry-day!

HANSEL: *(Sticking a thumbs down outside the cage.)* Boooo!

SCARLET: I can't believe it! Jack was right!

HELGA: Jack? Where did you hear that name?

SCARLET: I... I...

HELGA: Spit it out, child. How do you know Jack?!

SCARLET: He... he was here... while you were gone.

HELGA: What did he say!

SCARLET: He said he was a witch-hunter.

All the witches react.

HELGA: Silence! Yes, Jack, I've heard of this Jack. His uncle was my arch nemesis.

SCARLET: What happened to him?

HELGA: He lost. I won. So, it seems that Jack has taken up where his uncle left off. If he's as unflinching as his uncle was he's probably been looking for us for years. Did he hurt you, child?

SCARLET: No. Actually, he was nice. I don't think he knew I was a witch. I guess he's not a very good witch-hunter.

HELGA: We shall see. He's obviously skilled enough to find the location of our meeting.

SCARLET: He doesn't know we're having a meeting. I don't think he knows anything about us. I think it was just a coincidence that he wandered into our meeting site.

ZELDA: Maybe this was a different Jack. Was he ugly?

SCARLET: Oh no, he was very handsome. And he had this wonderful smile that created the most adorable dimple on the side of...

HELGA: If you weren't my niece I'd say you have a soft spot for the witch-hunter.

SCARLET: Oh no. No, no, no, no, no. I was just merely pointing out to my fellow witches how to recognize the low-down, filthy, piece of garbage.

JACK enters the audience.

JACK: Hansel! Gretel! Where are you?!

HELGA: Well, there's our hunter now. It's time to prove yourself, Scarlet. Lure him in and then capture him. Don't worry we'll be close by. *(Taking SCARLET'S hat.)* Witches hide!

JACK: Hansel! Gretel!

SCARLET: *(Conflicted.)* Oh dear... Mmmm... Jack! Jack over here!

JACK: Scarlet! *(Running up onto the stage.)* Have you seen Hansel and Gretel? They've run off again.

SCARLET: *(Pointing to the cage.)* They've been captured. See?

JACK: (*Running to the cage.*) Hansel and Gretel and... others!

SCARLET pulls out her wand.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Halo, Jack.

JACK: Scarlet, help me free them.

SCARLET: Sorry about this, Jack. (*Pointing her wand at JACK.*)

Jack the hunter, you have been chosen.

You cannot move, for you are frozen.

SFX: MAGIC SOUND. JACK turns to face SCARLET just as the MAGIC SOUND hits him. He tries to walk but he can't move.

JACK: Scarlet! What's going on? I can't move.

SCARLET: Sorry, Jack. I had to.

The witches come out of hiding.

JACK: Witches! Scarlet, run!

HELGA: (*Putting SCARLET'S hat back on her.*) Nice work, Scarlet.

You are one of us.

JACK: You're one of them?!

HELGA: Of course she is, darling. What did you think – you'd ask her out until she sat down to tea with you?

The witches cackle.

JACK: Tell me it isn't true, Scarlet.

All the witches look at SCARLET for her reaction.

SCARLET: (*Walking around JACK, taunting and mocking.*) I'm sorry,

Jack, but you're the one who said it, witches are terrible, awful, vile creatures. But most of all, we're very tricky.

The witches cackle again.

HELGA: What shall we do with him?

ZELDA: Can we eat him too?

SABRINA: He won't be very tender, but we could make a nice dipping sauce out of him.

HELGA: A fine idea! Let's tie him up.

WILLOW brings out a chair and rope.

LUNA: That was a nice spell, Scarlet. I'll have to remember that. Frozen and chosen. Brilliant!

WILLOW hands the rope to ZELDA and places the chair. ZELDA approaches JACK with the rope then suddenly stops.

ZELDA: Oh no... The fibers from the rope. They must've gotten in my... Aaaaah...

WILLOW: Look out!

The witches take cover.

ZELDA: ...Aaaaaah...

SABRINA: She's gonna blow!

ZELDA: *(Sneezes right at JACK.)* ...Choo!

SFX: MAGIC SOUND. JACK unfreezes. The witches look around to see what the sneeze did. JACK moves around like a chicken.

JACK: Bwak! Bwak, bwak, bwak! Bwak, bwak!

BRUNHILDE: Hey, why did Jack cross the road? 'Cause he was turned into a chicken! Ha!

ZELDA: Aaaaah... Choo!

JACK changes from a chicken to a robot.

JACK: *(Robot voice.)* Computing. Odds of defeating supernatural adolescent consumers: 326 to 1.

ZELDA: Aaaaah... Choo!

JACK begins river dancing.

JACK: I can't control my feet!

SABRINA: Oh man, that's embarrassing.

ZELDA: Aaaaah... Choo!

JACK is frozen again.

LUNA: He's frozen again.

HELGA: Someone take that rope away from Zelda!

SABRINA grabs the rope.

Now, make him sit in this chair.

LUNA: I'll do it! Let's see, chair... chair. Got it! (*Waves her wand at JACK.*) Although you gave us quite a... scare. I command you to sit in this... seat.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Chair!

LUNA: Sorry. I command you to sit in this chair!

SFX: MAGIC SOUND. JACK struggles against the spell but sits in the chair. SABRINA and BRUNHILDE tie him up.

HELGA: Nice catch, Scarlet.

HELGA cackles then looks at SCARLET who then tries to cackle but it comes out all wrong.

JACK: Scarlet, please! Don't let them eat the children!

HELGA: Oh yes, the children. Thank you for reminding me, Jack. Bring out the children!

JACK: Are you really that wicked?

HELGA: Let me put it to you this way: My name should be engraved on a plaque in the wickedness hall of fame along with Hitler, Stalin, Lucifer, and the I.R.S.

JACK: Villain!

LUNA and SABRINA bring the audience member children and HANSEL and GRETEL out of the cage.

HELGA: Did you kids see what happened to Jack when we put a spell on him? Well, I want to see what happens when we put a spell on you! Sabrina, I choose you!

SABRINA: *(Waves his wand at the kids.)*

We want to eat you but you're not chunky.

Let's see you move just like a monkey!

(An afterthought.) And make the sounds too. And be boy monkeys.

SFX: MAGIC SOUND then JUNGLE SOUND. HANSEL and GRETEL lead the audience children in acting like monkeys. The witches watch the kids and ad-lib about their monkey impersonations.

HELGA: Very good! Brunhilde, your turn.

BRUNHILDE: *(Waving her wand.)*

Enough with the monkeys in this place.

Let's see you make a funny face!

SFX: MAGIC SOUND then silly CIRCUS MUSIC. Again, HANSEL and GRETEL lead the volunteer children in making funny faces. The witches watch the kids and ad-lib about their funny faces.

HELGA: Their funny faces are making my mouth water. Zelda, cast your spell on them.

LUNA: But what if she sneezes?

ZELDA: *(Waving her wand.)*

I want to see your feet a-tappin'

But if I sneeze anything could happen

You like cookies from Nabisco

Let's see you dance like you're in a disco!

SFX: MAGIC SOUND then DISCO MUSIC and disco lighting. Again, HANSEL and GRETEL lead the children in a disco dance. The witches watch the kids and ad-lib on their dance moves and try to get the audience to cheer them on.

JACK: Stop! Stop!

The music and lights stop.

It's so cruel making them dance like that. Disco?! Have you no decency? Please don't make them dance anymore!

ZELDA Sneezes and ballet music plays. HANSEL and GRETEL lead the kids in ballet dancing. ZELDA sneezes again and the music changes to head banger music. HANSEL and GRETEL lead the kids in head banging and air guitar.

HELGA: Enough! Put them back in the cage!

LUNA and SABRINA put them back in the cage. Then LUNA waves her wand.

WILLOW: Remember, rhyme with door.

LUNA: Got it.

You're the first, but we want more
So lock the desk and... Dang it!

SABRINA: *(Irritated.)*

You're the first, but we want more.
I seal you up and lock the door.
Sheesh!

SFX: MAGIC SOUND.

LUNA: Show off.

JACK: You heartless wenches! Scarlet, you can't let them eat these children!

HELGA: We're going to do more than that, Jack. We're going to fatten up every child in town and then we're going to use Willow's kidding pole to capture them. All of them!

They cackle.

HELGA: (*Continued.*) Willow, you say these children never grow tired of this candy substance?

WILLOW: That's right. They'd eat it 24/7 if their parents would let them.

HELGA: And you say this candy has a lot of calories?

WILLOW: Oh, yes. And most of it also contains saturated fat.

HELGA: Then this is what we'll do: We'll hold a special day - no, a night. Yes, a night where all the children can have free candy! Spread the news to all the children in the town. Every witch is to give away this candy to every child. We'll fatten them up in one night. And then we'll capture them all.

ZELDA: It's brilliant!

HELGA: We'll trick them all with a simple treat! What shall we call it?

SABRINA: We should call it Trick-or-Treat!

HELGA: No, let's just call it Candy Night.

ALL WITCHES: Candy Night!

HELGA: Yes, Candy Night!

They all cackle.

WILLOW: Oh! Uh... Just a fair warning to all witches: Don't eat the candy! It's poisonous to our kind. Mouth-watering for them, witch-walloping for us!

HELGA: Good safety tip from Willow. Thank you, Willow. Now let's get going.

All the witches exit cackling.

SCENE 4

JACK sits tied up. HANSEL and GRETEL peer out the cage.

HANSEL: Hallo, Jack.

JACK: Hello, Hansel.

GRETEL: Hallo, Jack.

JACK: Hello, Gretel.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ve are—

JACK: Hungry, I know. I'm afraid I've let you down. I can't get loose.
I think the ropes have been magically imbued.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, Ja! Imbued!

SCARLET enters.

SCARLET: Jack!

JACK: Scarlet!

SCARLET rushes to JACK and tries to untie him.

SCARLET: I can't get the rope untied. It's like it's been—

HANSEL and GRETEL: Magically imbued!

SCARLET stands up and points her wand at JACK. He winces.

SCARLET: With all my power you shall not die

For these ropes will now untie!

SFX: MAGIC SOUND. SCARLET dashes to JACK and unties him. JACK takes the rope off and grabs SCARLET and pushes her back against the cage.

JACK: You're a witch!

HANSEL: I don't think that's how you pronounce it!

SCARLET: Jack, please!

JACK: You tricked me!

SCARLET: I'm sorry! When you said that all witches are mean and ugly!

JACK: You what? Captured a few children for dinner?

SCARLET: I didn't know. I had to pretend to be one of them so that I could rescue you.

JACK: Deceiver!

SCARLET: I rescued you.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! Rescue!

JACK softens then releases her.

JACK: I guess you did do that. Can you open the cage?

SCARLET: *(Waving her wand.)*

Children frolic and be free to play
As I unlock the front entry way.

SFX: MAGIC SOUND. GRETEL opens the gate and the children come out.

JACK: You're free! Scarlet, I'm sorry. I was wrong.

SCARLET: No, I was wrong. You were right. We are grotesque. I'm a dirty, disgusting, blemished, revolting, sickening, repulsive, nauseating, filthy creature. And I'm not just fishing for compliments.

JACK: That's nonsense! You're none of those things. You're the most beautiful person I've ever seen.

SCARLET: But I'm a witch! And my kind eats children. *(Dry heaves.)*
Yuck! *(To the children.)* No offense.

HANSEL and GRETEL: None taken!

SCARLET: Take the children back to their parents, Jack. And then...
(Cries.) ...just burn me at the stake.

JACK: Don't be silly, Scar. Listen, how did you become a witch?

SCARLET: My mom was a witch. So I guess I was just born this way.

JACK: Our birthright isn't what makes us who we are, it's the choices we make that define us. And look at the choice you just made. You freed them! You freed me! Those other witches just expect you to be wicked, but you made your own choice.

SCARLET: You mean I don't have to eat children?

JACK: Of course not! You're free to choose your own path.

SCARLET: *(Kneeling down to children.)* Did you hear that, kids? I don't have to eat you!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Yay!

SCARLET: I'm so happy I could just eat y... hug you! *(Hugging all the children including HANSEL and GRETEL.)* I don't know why they would want to eat you. *(Aside.)* They don't even smell good. Oh Jack, I'm so happy!

SCARLET and JACK hug. They pull back a bit and realize the feelings they have for each other. They are about to kiss but...

HANSEL and GRETEL: We are hungry!

SCARLET and JACK break apart.

JACK: Alright, you kids, let's get you home.

SCARLET: Jack, wait! You heard the plan. If we take these kids back home they'll just get caught again along with all the other children in these parts. We've got to stop the witches.

Behind JACK and SCARLET, HANSEL and GRETEL find the kidding pole, open the candy and share it with the audience member kids.

JACK: Scarlet, I have a confession to make. I'm not really a witch-hunter.

SCARLET: You're not?

JACK: No. In fact, before tonight I'd never even met a witch.

SCARLET: Then how do you know so much about witches?

JACK: My uncle was a witch-hunter. He told me stories about the Grand High Witch. One night he said he'd finally found her and then he left to hunt her down. He never returned. So I vowed that I would finish what he started. But let's face it, I'm no witch-hunter. I've never even had any training.

SCARLET: There must be something of a witch-hunter inside you. How else could you have found the secret location of our annual meeting?

JACK: *(Pulls out a flyer or program for the show.)* It was on this flyer. See?

SCARLET: Okay. So, what was your plan?

JACK: First, I find the secret location of the witch's annual conference.

SCARLET: Okay, you did that. What's next?

JACK: Well, I didn't really expect that part of the plan to work so I didn't plan anything after that.

HANSEL and GRETEL: *(Eating.)* We like candy.

SCARLET: That's it! Remember what Willow said about candy?

JACK: She said it was poisonous to their kind!

GRETEL: Ja, ja! Mouth-watering for us!

HANSEL: Vitch-walloping for them!

SCARLET: That's it! We just need to get them to...

JACK and SCARLET: ...eat some candy!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! Candy!

JACK: But they know it's poisonous. How do we get them to eat it?

SCARLET: Don't you remember? We witches are very tricky.

JACK tries to cackle.

Don't do that again. We'll need that candy at the end of Willow's kidding pole. First, I'll need to replicate it into lots of candy. Then we can make it into a concoction that doesn't look like candy. And that's how we'll get the witches to eat it.

They turn to the children. GRETEL is holding the kidding pole. Only the wrapper remains. JACK grabs it.

JACK: Hansel! Gretel! And you other kids! You just ate our plan!

SCARLET grabs the wrapper from JACK.

SCARLET: It's okay, Jack. Look, all the ingredients are here on the wrapper. If we can just find all these ingredients we can mix them into Willow's cauldron and make our own candy. Then we just add a little magic, and poof!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja! Poof!

JACK: Monosodium glutamate? I don't know what most these ingredients are! How are we supposed to find them?

SCARLET: We'll use the children!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Hooray! We're made out of monosodium glutamate!

JACK: No, she means you're gonna help us find them. But how?

SCARLET: Wait a minute! We don't need to find each ingredient! Remember the witches plan about Candy Night?

JACK: Yeah, they're gonna fatten up all the children out there in one night with a bunch of... I see where you're going with this!

SCARLET: All we have to do is get the children to donate a little bit of their candy—

JACK: Straight into Willow's cauldron! We'll use their own plan against them. Do you think it will work?

SCARLET: I guess that depends on the children.

JACK: Kids, are you ready to trick the witches and get some treats?

HANSEL and GRETEL: Ja, ja!

JACK: While the witches think that they are fattening you up for their next meal, you children will really be collecting the candy to make our own brew.

HANSEL: But we want to eat the candy!

SCARLET: You can still eat most of it. All we need is for each child to put one piece into the cauldron. Can you do that?

HANSEL and GRETEL: *(Nodding yes.)* No!

SCARLET: Hansel, Gretel, if you give up one piece of candy, the witches will never be able to capture you again. Now, can you do that?

HANSEL and GRETEL: *(Shaking their heads no.)* Ja!

JACK: *(Angry.)* Hansel and Gretel! If you don't give up just one piece of candy the witches will eat you, and if they eat you, you will never be able to eat another piece of candy ever again!!! Now, will you give up just one piece of candy?!!!

HANSEL and GRETEL: Okay. *(They sniff simultaneously.)*

SCARLET: *(Kneeling down to the audience member kids.)* You kids spread the word. Tell all the other kids that on Candy Night remember to secretly put one piece of candy into Willow's cauldron. Then we'll be able to make a special candy brew that will destroy the witches once and for all. Now, go back to your parents. *(She sends them back to their seats.)* Hansel and Gretel, if this is going to work, we can't let the witches know we're onto them. You'll need to go back into the cage.

HANSEL and GRETEL: Yay!

HANSEL and GRETEL run back into the cage and shut the gate.

SCARLET: Jack—

JACK: *(Sitting in the chair.)* I know. I need to remain tied up.

SCARLET wraps the rope around him.

SCARLET: *(Kissing his cheek.)* For luck.

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