

# A Way Happier Ever After

*By Steven Stack*

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## **DEDICATION**

To the actors of Forte Studios

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Prudence E. Witch is sick and tired of being burned in the oven while Hansel and Gretel run free. She decides to re-write some of the best loved children's tales into a more modern narrative. Come join Chicken Little, the Three Pigs, Jack and Jill, Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel, the Wicked Witch of the West, and Prudence as they discover a new reality. Chicken Little finds that with a little therapy she can believe in herself. Foxy Loxy turns a new leaf...as a therapist. Two of the three little pigs practically insist on being eaten, and Cinderella rethinks the whole prince thing. Flexible casting, about 75 minutes.

## **ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

July 9th, 2015, Forte Studios, Mt. Horeb, WI with the following cast: Brea Connors, Natalie Waterbury, Mia Schoonover, Chloe Stack, Genevieve Helin, Jacob Piper, Browyn Mayhew, Jordyn Pasker, Whitney Waterbury, Drew Bennish, Ian Santoirre, Sarah Thompson, Gracie Hamburg, Morgan Hart, Noah Strube, Delaney Mertz, Tia Vasen, Xander Strube, Jack Austin, Cedric Marty, Alexa Stram, Grant Haroldson, Evan Strange, Katie Manchester, Ariella Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Ayden Green, Jim Fountas, Sarah Strube, Korey Hart, Charli Uptegraw

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(Gender-flexible roles; approx. 3 m, 15 w, doubling possible)*

**CHICKEN LITTLE:** A rather lonely chicken with OCD.

**BELLE:** Farmer McDonald's farmhand.

**GOOSEY LOOSEY:** Former friend of Chicken Little.

**TURKEY LURKEY:** Another former friend of Chicken Little, has a turkey neck.

**HENNY PENNY:** Yet another former friend of Chicken Little.

**FOXY LOXY:** A former lawyer, now a psychologist, Still wants to eat fowl.

**LYDIA WOLF:** Sells real estate to pigs in order to eat them.

**FILINA:** A pig who is not smart.

**TINA:** Filina's sister, who is also not smart.

**KATRINA:** The smart sister.

**HANSEL:** Gretel's brother, survived the witch.

**GRETEL:** Hansel's sister who saved him.

**CINDERELLA:** Not actually a princess.

**JACK:** Brother of Jill who denies his emotions...for a while.

**JILL:** A strong person, sister of Jack.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Used to be a witch in a famous story.

**PRUDENCE:** A witch. Formerly lived in a candy house, now a writer.

**CARL:** Offstage voice.

**STEPMOTHER:** Cinderella's stepmother.

Doubling suggestion: Belle, Goosey Loosey, and Turkey Lurkey can double as Lydia, Tina, Filina, and Stepmother.

### **Set Notes**

The set can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be. For most of the show, a bare stage, with a little dressing up, works quite well. Here are some suggestions for the various scenes:

The Witch's Candy House: An oven and cage, which could both be made out of cardboard.

Chicken Little's Coop: Nothing is really needed here.

Foxy Loxy's Office: A desk, several chairs (or a bench and one chair), a cup of water, a degree.

The Fairy Tale Woods: Trees. Lots of trees.

### **Property List**

Broom, latex gloves (Little)	Newspaper (Katrina)
Food pellets (Belle)	Folder of pictures (Katrina)
Scarf (Turkey Lurkey)	Crown (Jack)
Mirror (Turkey Lurkey)	Broom (Witch)
Briefcase (Foxy Loxy)	Book (Prudence)
Phone (Foxy Loxy)	Business card (Foxy Loxy)
Contracts (Lydia Wolf)	Pen and pencil (Lydia Wolf)
Straw and twig (Lydia Wolf)	Bottle of water (Katrina)

### **Lights / Sounds**

Only basic lighting is needed in general. When the Wicked Witch of the West makes her first appearance and after she finds out that Prudence is "dead," there should be some flickering lights and spooky sound effects. Nothing specific needed, just something cool. Have a blast coming up with what works for you!

### **Costume Notes**

Be creative and go in any direction you want. Only character Cinderella and Foxy need specific outfits. Cinderella needs to look like half of her is going to a ball and the other half is cleaning the toilet. If you have a talented seamstress, you could make a half and half dress and if not, only hint at what she looks like with accessories. Also, at the very end Foxy wears disco clothes,

### **Prologue**

*(AT RISE: A witch's candy house. HANSEL is in a cage. PRUDENCE is looking in her oven.)*

**PRUDENCE:** Why, the fire is almost ready. Soon I will feast.  
*(Turns to HANSEL.)* And in case you're wondering, I do not mean feast upon pheasant. I mean feast upon you. And then your sister. And perhaps...even your parents.

**HANSEL:** Figured that, but it don't matter 'cause soon—

**PRUDENCE:** Doesn't!

**HANSEL:** What?

**PRUDENCE:** Your speech is appalling. I hope it doesn't spread to me when I eat you.

**HANSEL:** You ain't—

**PRUDENCE:** Aren't! I swear, if I wouldn't soon be digesting you I would make you my Eliza Doolittle.

*(HANSEL is about to speak.)*

**PRUDENCE:** *(Cont'd.)* And I know what you are going to say. *(In a mocking voice.)* You ain't gonna eat me 'cause my sister is going to kick you into that thar oven. *(HANSEL looks stunned.)* That's right. I know. Heard it a million times. But this time...it'll be different because I know she's—

*(PRUDENCE turns as GRETEL enters quietly from the opposite side of where she's looking.)*

**PRUDENCE:** *(Cont'd.)* Not there. What the—

*(GRETEL kicks PRUDENCE into the oven then runs to the cage and lets HANSEL out.)*

**GRETEL:** C'mon, Hansel! Quick. Let the old witch burn!

*(HANSEL and GRETEL run off. PRUDENCE peeks her head out of the oven.)*

**PRUDENCE:** Old witch? What kind of ignorant child insults someone while they burn? So rude. *(Silence.)* Blast it. I'm so over this. *(Takes out a book.)* And thanks to you, dear book, I shall burn no more. Well, after this time. *(Shakes head.)* Children burning witches. What a grotesque message. But never again. Never again! *(SHE cackles as the LIGHTS fade.)*

### Scene 1

*(AT RISE: A chicken coop. CHICKEN LITTLE, a tiny chicken, sweeping. BELLE, the farm maid, comes out and throws feed into the coop. Chicken Little turns angrily.)*

**LITTLE:** How dare you!

**BELLE:** What? Was just feedin' ya.

**LITTLE:** By tossing these... *(Picks up some feed.)* pellets on my ground? My recently swept ground?

**BELLE:** It's feed. For you to eat.

**LITTLE:** I'll have you know that I never eat such things. Why, the hormones in these pellets... *(Makes a sound of disgust and throws the pellets at her. Looks at BELLE.)* Who are you, anyway? Where's Farmer McDonald?

**BELLE:** In town. I'm Belle, and—

**LITTLE:** Okay, Belle, let me make this clear—

**BELLE:** Wait. You're Chicken Little, right? That chicken who thought the sky was falling and told all her friends and—

**LITTLE:** *(A serious look crosses HER face.)* We don't talk about that anymore. Besides, anyone could have made that mistake.

**BELLE:** Didn't you just get hit by an acorn? And then you spent the rest of the day running around—

**LITTLE:** It was a really large acorn.

*(BELLE starts to say something but LITTLE cuts her off.)*

## **End of Freeview**

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