

*(They back away from the light, but only towards the SNOW QUEEN who has entered behind them)*

SNOW QUEEN. Come, little girl. You are mine.

BHIMA. Run, Gerda! Run! *(Exit BHIMA. GERDA remains still.)*

SNOW QUEEN. You can't run, can you? You are in my power. Come, servants—take her!

*(Enter KING GRIN and COBWEB. They take hold of GERDA and lead her to the SNOW QUEEN.)*

SNOW QUEEN. You thought you could take Kay away from me. You thought you could defeat the Snow Queen. But you have failed, you have failed miserably and I have triumphed. As always—the Snow Queen has triumphed!

GERDA. No! You're the one who's failed. We swapped coats. I'm not Gerda. See! *(She flings back her hood. It is LENA.)*

LENA. Our plan worked. Yours didn't. Gerda's gone!

SNOW QUEEN. I will have the girl! Quickly—there may still be time. *(Exit the SNOW QUEEN. COBWEB snatches the diamond from KING GRIN and exits.)*

KING GRIN. No! Nooooo!

LENA. Oh, honestly, Father—it serves you right.

KING GRIN. The world is cruel, the world is cruel. *(LENA laughs as they exit.)*

## SCENE SEVEN

SCENE: *The open road, outside the castle. Enter PRINCE, GERDA, PECK, SCRUFF and BHIMA at a run. They ALL gather happily around GERDA.*

PRINCE. Our trick worked. It really worked.

SCRUFF. It was brilliant.

BHIMA. But feel how cold it is.

PRINCE. Look—you can see your breath.

GERDA. I don't care—it's lovely to be out in the air again.

*(Enter LENA, at a run.)*

LENA. The horses are ready. They're the fastest and the most beautiful in the whole world, but what else would you expect?

GERDA. I don't know what to say. You've all been so kind. *(She kisses PECK and SCRUFF.)* You've been very special friends.

PECK. Of course—ravens are very special birds.

SCRUFF. O, Auntie Peck—shut your beak.

PECK. We'll all miss you, Gerda.

SCRUFF. Good luck, Gerda.

BHIMA. Keep going North, always North.

GERDA. I'll remember. Won't you come with me?

BHIMA. No, Gerda—you're stronger on your own. I am only strong in summer when the sun is strong. But here—take this. *(He removes a golden ring from his finger and gives it to GERDA.)* It is a magic ring. If you need me, breathe on it and shine its gold three times against your heart and I promise I'll be there beside you. Don't

lose it. And remember—always North, forever North.  
(*GERDA puts it on her finger.*)

GERDA. I won't lose it and I won't forget.

BHIMA. Then on you: go.

LENA. Hurry—the horses are raring to go.

GERDA. Good-bye everyone.

SCRUFF. Go on, Gerda.

PECK. You can do it. (*GERDA exits, waving, through the auditorium.*)

ALL (*chanting and clapping*).

Go on Gerda, you can do it

You can do it, yes just—

Go on, Gerda, you can do it

You can do it—yes you can! (*A loud wind gets up.*)

PECK. It's her!

SCRUFF. It's the Snow Queen!

BHIMA. Quickly everyone! (*They ALL scatter.*)

(*Enter COBWEB and the SNOW QUEEN.*)

COBWEB. It's too late, Mistress—she's gone. Please don't kill me.

SNOW QUEEN (*ignoring him*). I still have the boy. She will never take him away from me. Never! And now I will bury the world under huge falls of snow and great mountains of ice. (*Suddenly to AUDIENCE.*) I will freeze you all! I will freeze you all! (*A howl of wind, a burst of icy light, and, by magic, they vanish.*)

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

SCENE: *The Winter Forest, near to the North Road. Enter the ROBBER WOMAN, wild and fierce, followed by her gang—NIKO, MUSCLES and TWITCH.*

ROBBER WOMAN. Right, men—take your positions!  
(*They shuffle about aimlessly, bumping into each other.*)

MUSCLES (*eventually*). What positions?

ROBBER WOMAN. Your robbing positions! Poultrices! What are you?

NIKO, MUSCLES and TWITCH (*resigned, in unison*). Poultrices.

ROBBER WOMAN. We'll hide in the trees next to our barricade on the road. First coach we see, gets it!

NIKO (*spits*). No one uses the North Road any more. It's too cold.

ROBBER WOMAN. We do what I say! The Robber Woman has spoken.

NIKO. Coach! That's a laugh. We haven't seen a coach for weeks.

TWITCH. Me, I've forgotten what they look like.

ROBBER WOMAN. I wish I could forget what you look like.

MUSCLES. Hey, that's funny. Hurk—hurk—hurk.

ROBBER WOMAN. Muscles! (*She belts him one. MUSCLES stops laughing.*) Twitch.

TWITCH (*twitching*). Here, Chief.

ROBBER WOMAN. Go and have a look at the road. And Twitch, stop twitching!

TWITCH (*twitching*). Sorry, Chief. Right away, Chief. (*Exits.*)

NIKO. Huh—a complete waste of time. We should go back to camp.

ROBBER WOMAN. Niko—come over here and say that. (*NIKO comes over. The ROBBER WOMAN grabs his nose.*) Who's Robber Chief?

NIKO. Ow—led go cb by dose.

ROBBER WOMAN (*twisting his nose*). Who's Chief?

NIKO. Ow—you are.

ROBBER WOMAN. I didn't hear that. (*She stamps on his foot, but still holds onto his nose.*) Louder! Who's Chief?

NIKO. Ow—you are.

ROBBER WOMAN (*letting him go*). That's my boy. (*NIKO relaxes and she stamps on his other foot.*) To-day we'll get a coach. I can feel it in my handbag.

(*Enter TWITCH.*)

TWITCH. I've had a good look at the road.

ROBBER WOMAN. Well?

TWITCH (*shifting uncomfortably*). Well what?

ROBBER WOMAN. Well—go on!

TWITCH. I've had a good look at the road and...it's still there, I saw it...annnd...it's a nice road, annnd...

ROBBER WOMAN (*belting him one*). Poulticehead! You were meant to see what's on the road, not look at it! I'm surrounded by idiots!

MUSCLES. I'm here.

ROBBER WOMAN. O, give me strength. Muscles, I want you to go and see what's—on—the—road. Got it?

MUSCLES. What's—on—the—road. Got it, Chief. Leave it to me, Chief. (*He exits, repeating his instructions. NIKO begins to polish his knife.*)

ROBBER WOMAN (*to AUDIENCE*). What a gorilla. It takes him two hours to shave, honestly, and that's just the palms of his hands. What a life. Some robbers must have it easy, some bandits, cutthroats and thieves must lead the good life. Just think—I could have been a lawyer. O, I need a drink. (*She snatches the bottle of polish from NIKO and takes a drink.*) Bleugh! What's this you've given me?

NIKO. It's my knife polish.

ROBBER WOMAN. O, that's not so bad, then. I'll just polish it off. (*She drinks it down.*) Oof—that puts a shine on the day.

(*Enter MUSCLES, very excited.*)

MUSCLES. I seen it, I seen it, I seen it—with my very own eyes—I seen it!

TWITCH. What?

NIKO. Where?

MUSCLES. On the road, I seen it. I seen it on the road. I did, I did, I really did.

ROBBER WOMAN (*very loud*). What did you see on the road?

MUSCLES. I seen this itty-bitty tiny white bunny rabbit hop-hopping across the snow. Aw, Chief—you should have seen it. It was lovely. Great big ears, little fluffy tail and...

ROBBER WOMAN. Muscles.

MUSCLES. Chief?

ROBBER WOMAN. Come here. I've got something for you. (*MUSCLES goes to her.*)

MUSCLES (*pleased*). For me? What is it? (*TWITCH and NIKO cover their eyes.*)

ROBBER WOMAN. Extreme pain! (*She takes out a vicious-looking club and really lets him have it.*)

MUSCLES. Thanks, Chief.

ROBBER WOMAN. O! Get in a line—all of you! This minute! (*They shuffle reluctantly into a line.*) I'm going to knock you lot into shape. Robbers should be strong—chest out—brave—shoulders back—and ruthless—tummy in! Good. We will now sing our song.

ALL (*variously*). O, r.o! I hate singing! The song stinks. Where's my ear plugs?

ROBBER WOMAN. Stand Still! (*They obey.*) We shall begin. Ahem. (*She taps MUSCLES on the head with her "baton."*) One, two, three...

(SONG: "THICK AS THIEVES")

ALL. WE ARE THE MEN WHO ROB AND PLUNDER  
WE ARE THE MEN WHO CHEAT AND STEAL  
AND WE NEVER MADE A BLUNDER.  
NO WE NEVER MAKE A BLUNDER.

NIKO (*spoken*). I'm not singing this!

MUSCLES (*spoken*). This is a stupid song!

TWITCH (*spoken*). Who wrote it?

ROBBER WOMAN (*spoken*). I did! Now sing up, boys—or else!

ALL. WE ARE THE MEN, WE ARE THE MEN,  
WE'VE BEEN ROBBERS SINCE WE WERE  
TEN.

(*ROBBERS begin to tiptoe off.*)

WE ARE MEAN, WE ARE RUDE,  
STREETS AHEAD OF ROBIN HOOD.

(*ROBBER WOMAN spots their attempted escape.*)

ROBBER WOMAN (*spoken*). Come back here, you clowns! When I say sing, I mean sing!

ALL. WE'VE NEVER WORKED IN OUR LIVES—  
WHAT'S MORE—WE NEVER EVER WILL.  
FOR WHAT'S THE POINT OF WORKING  
WHEN YOU CAN ROB ANOTHER'S TILL.  
IT'S IN OUR BLOOD, WE CAN'T HELP IT.

WE ARE THICK, AS THICK AS THIEVES,  
THAT'S US TO A TEE.

WE ARE THICK,  
O, YES WE'RE THICK

WE ARE THICK AS THIEVES CAN BE.

ROBBER WOMAN (*spoken*). Now men, we'll sing about what we robbers really believe in.

NIKO (*spoken*). I don't believe in anything.

ROBBER WOMAN (*spoken*). You believe in money, don't you—you believe in the beauty of theft?

NIKO (*spoken*). Of course I do. We all do.

ROBBER WOMAN (*spoken*). Well then—

ALL (*or variously*).

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU WANT

JUST TAKE IT

TAKE IT!

IF YOU WANT WHAT YOU SEE

JUST TAKE IT

TAKE IT!

IF YOU FEEL IT, STEAL IT

IF YOU LIKE IT, SWIPE IT!

**DON'T HOLD BACK,  
PUT IT IN A SACK,  
TAKE IT, IT'S SIMPLE,  
JUST TAKE IT!**

ROBBER WOMAN. That's the stuff, men. Now we're ready for anything.

NIKO. I'm ready for my tea.

TWITCH. A coach! I can see a coach!

ROBBER WOMAN. He's right! It's almost at the barricade. Hurry, men—hurry! Attack, attack! *(They exit in a confused rush. The ROBBER WOMAN "watches" the ambush.)* The coach has slowed down for the barricade. Now's the time, men! Go for it! They've done it. They've jumped onto the coach. Brilliant men—brilliant! But the horses are loose. Don't let them escape you fools. Too late. The coach is out of control. The barricade! Look out—it's going to...*(Loud sound of a crash.)* Crash.

*(A buckled wheel rolls drunkenly onto the stage followed by MUSCLES who is very excited.)*

MUSCLES. We got it, Chief. We got a coach. *(He dances for joy.)*

*(Enter TWITCH and NIKO.)*

TWITCH and NIKO *(in unison, dancing)*. We got a coach, we got a coach, we got a coach. *(MUSCLES kisses NIKO, NIKO kisses TWITCH, TWITCH goes to kiss the ROBBER WOMAN. She belts him one.)*

ROBBER WOMAN. Just bring me the plunder!

MUSCLES. The plunder, Chief? Coming right up.

ROBBER WOMAN. Hurry! Form a human chain.

NIKO *(pointing at MUSCLES)*. How can it be human if he's in it?

ROBBER WOMAN. Do as you're told! *(They form a chain, MUSCLES going off to fetch the plunder.)* I'll be rich, I'll be rich. Quickly—the plunder!

*(Enter MUSCLES.)*

MUSCLES. Arriva—ole! *(Throws plunder down line and exits.)*

NIKO. Hoopla!

TWITCH. Allez—oop! *(ROBBER WOMAN catches the plunder and holds it up—it is a pair of gloves.)*

ROBBER WOMAN. What!

*(Enter MUSCLES.)*

MUSCLES. I found them in the glove compartment. Ole! *(He throws a large boot down the line and exits.)*

ROBBER WOMAN *(catching boot)*. What!

*(Enter MUSCLES.)*

MUSCLES *(to AUDIENCE)*. I found it in...

AUDIENCE. The boot. *(MUSCLES throws a coachman's bonnet down the line.)*

MUSCLES *(to AUDIENCE)*. I found it under...

AUDIENCE. The bonnet.

ROBBER WOMAN. Where's the gold?! Where's the silver?! Where's the plunder?!

MUSCLES. There isn't any, Chief.

ALL. What—no plunder!

MUSCLES. There's nothing—except for this.

(MUSCLES fetches GERDA and launches her down the line.)

MUSCLES. Ole!

NIKO. Hoopla!

TWITCH. Allez—ooz! (The ROBBER WOMAN catches GERDA.)

ROBBER WOMAN. A little girl? I don't want a little girl!

GERDA. And I don't want you. Put me down.

ROBBER WOMAN. With pleasure. (She drops GERDA.)

NIKO. Where's the gold? Tell us, or I'll...

GERDA. There's no gold. There's just me. So let me go—please. You've got to.

ROBBER WOMAN. Got to—ha!

NIKO (fingering his knife). We never let anyone go.

GERDA. But you really have got to. I'm going to the Snow Queen's Ice Palace at the top of the world.

MUSCLES. The Snow Queen!

TWITCH (twitching). The Ice Palace!

NIKO. She must be crazy!

ROBBER WOMAN. No, little girl—we'll decide what happens to you.

TWITCH. Look at her.

ROBBER WOMAN. She's pretty and plump. She's been fed on nut kernels, the lamb. And look how smartly she is dressed.

NIKO. Feel her coat.

TWITCH. She must be rich.

GERDA. It's not mine! I was given it by a Princess.

ROBBER WOMAN. Rich! Princess! That's it! We'll hold her to ransom.

ROBBERS (singing).

HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO...

GERDA. O, no—my Grandma's very poor and no one else would pay anything for me.

ROBBER WOMAN. Just my luck!

(Enter COBWEB SPIDER.)

COBWEB. Perhaps, my friends, I can be of some assistance.

GERDA. You! You followed me. Don't let him near me. He's horrible.

ROBBER WOMAN. Who are you, scunnerlugs?

COBWEB. My name is Cobweb Spider, High Lord of the New Ice Age—and I can make you rich. (He produces a casket.) I'll give you this casket of golden coins...

TWITCH. Gimme, gimme.

COBWEB. ...in exchange for the girl.

NIKO. We're rich, Chief. We're rich!

ROBBER WOMAN. I don't know, I'll have to think about it.

ROBBERS. Think about it!

ROBBER WOMAN. I've thought about it. I accept.

COBWEB (laughing evilly). You see, little girl—(Points to the sky.)—She never loses.

ROBBER WOMAN. Give him the girl.

GERDA. Please don't. (To AUDIENCE.) They can't give me away, can they?

AUDIENCE. No.

COBWEB. O, yes they can.

AUDIENCE. O, no they can't.

COBWEB and ROBBERS (in unison). O, yes they can.

AUDIENCE. O, no they can't.

COBWEB (to AUDIENCE). This time you're wrong. (To ROBBERS.) Bring her to me!

(NIKO and TWITCH lead GERDA to COBWEB, and the ROBBER WOMAN prepares to accept the casket of coins, but the transaction is interrupted by the entrance of REDHEAD, the little Robber Girl. She is wild and fast.)

REDHEAD. Mama! (She leaps up onto the ROBBER WOMAN's back and bites her ear.)

ROBBER WOMAN (screaming). My ear, my ear—you're biting my ear! (She howls and swings round and round, trying to dislodge REDHEAD. Finally REDHEAD jumps down.) My ear—it's bleeding. (Advancing on REDHEAD.) I should break every bone in your...

REDHEAD. But Mama, I love you.

ROBBER WOMAN. And I love you too, you vicious little animal. Come to Mama. (They give each other a big hug.) What have you been up to?

REDHEAD. Nothing special. I broke some windows, picked some pockets, and I stole another knife.

ROBBER WOMAN. That's my girl.

REDHEAD (pointing at GERDA). Who's she?

ROBBER WOMAN. We robbed a coach. She was all we got.

REDHEAD (pointing at COBWEB). And who's he?

MUSCLES. He's a poultice.

NIKO. A rich poultice.

ROBBER WOMAN. He's going to give us gold in exchange for the girl.

REDHEAD. No.

COBWEB. What?

REDHEAD. You heard. I want the girl so I get the girl! Understood?

COBWEB. But the gold.

REDHEAD. I'll take her muff and her pretty dress. My mother always gives me what I want.

NIKO. Not this time she won't.

REDHEAD (squaring up to NIKO). O, yeah—and what are you going to do about it?

NIKO (backing down). N—nothing.

REDHEAD. No, I didn't think so. (She spits.) Tell them, Mama.

ROBBER WOMAN. Give her the girl. (A storm of protest from COBWEB and the ROBBERS.) And that's final! I love my little girl. I want to give her all the things I've never had.

NIKO. Like what—a brain?

ROBBER WOMAN. I'll brain you, you sleekit little dwarf! Give her the girl. (REDHEAD takes GERDA.)

COBWEB. You can't do that! (MUSCLES restrains him.)

REDHEAD (to GERDA). Don't be frightened—if anyone around here is going to kill you it'll be me. Come on. I'll show you where I live. (Exit GERDA and REDHEAD.)

COBWEB (furious). Right, that's it. You're not getting the money. My mind is made up.

ROBBER WOMAN. I've got it!

COBWEB. I'm going to tell the Snow Queen on you!

ROBBER WOMAN (to ROBBERS). We're robbers aren't we?

MUSCLES. Hey, that's right.

TWITCH. We could rob him.

COBWEB. Now just wait a minute. (He goes to exit.)



ROBBER WOMAN. Grab him! (*They grab him.*) Give me the plunder. (*MUSCLES hands her the casket.*)

NIKO. What about the poultice?

ROBBER WOMAN. Get rid of him.

COBWEB (*being kicked all the while*). Now, gentlemen, I'm sure we can settle this matter without recourse to violence. (*They pick him up.*) I'll go my way, you go yours... (*They throw him off— loud scream.*)

MUSCLES. We did it, Chief! We actually robbed someone.

NIKO. Come on, Chief—divide the plunder. (*She delves into the casket.*)

ROBBER WOMAN. One for you, two for me.

TWITCH. Hey, Muscles—what are you going to do with your share?

ROBBER WOMAN. One for you, three for me...

MUSCLES. I don't know yet.

ROBBER WOMAN. One for you, four for me...

MUSCLES. Hey—I know! I'm going to spend it on something really stupid.

NIKO. You don't say.

ROBBER WOMAN (*as they exit*). One for you, five for me...

## SCENE TWO

SCENE: *Night. The REDHEAD's den, deep in the Winter Forest. A flickering fire. A rope winds off into the vast surrounding darkness. Enter GERDA and REDHEAD.*

REDHEAD. This is where I live. I love people who can tell me stories. Did you really come all this way just to try and save Kay?

GERDA. Yes, he's my best friend.

REDHEAD. Now you're my friend! I'll keep you here, just like one of my pets. I think I like you already, except for your name. Are you really called Gerda?

GERDA. So what if I am?

REDHEAD. Gerda! What a funny name.

GERDA. It's not as funny as yours.

REDHEAD. Redhead? What's wrong with that?

GERDA. Well, for a start you don't have red hair.

REDHEAD. I'm beautiful enough without it! Anyway they call me Redhead because of my bad temper not because of the colour of my hair. Sometimes I can be really vicious. Come and sit by the fire. This is the coldest winter ever.

GERDA. That's because of the Snow Queen.

REDHEAD. Lie down. (*Pushes GERDA over.*) You can sleep with me, then you won't be able to run away.

GERDA. What's this? (*She holds up a knife.*)

REDHEAD. That's just one of my knives. I always sleep with a knife in my hand, don't you? But you'd better put it down unless you want to fight me. Do you, Gerda—do you want to fight me? (*GERDA almost fights her, but controls her excitement, and puts down the knife.*)

GERDA. No, of course I don't.

REDHEAD. Pity—I've never lost a fight. We can sleep together by the light of the fire, but before we fall asleep you can tell me your story again. Tell me about Kay and the Snow Queen, and about how you went after them all on your own. And don't forget about the ravens. Go on—tell me again about Peck and Scruff.



GERDA. I've told you—it's not a story! O—I get so angry I can hardly speak! It's true, it's real and I've got to go to the Ice Palace.

REDHEAD. I won't let you go! Anyway you couldn't cross the ice on your own.

GERDA. O, please listen.

REDHEAD. No—you listen! You're staying here with me and that's final! You'll be happy, I promise. I'll teach you how to use a knife, I'll show you my pets. That's it! I'll show you my favourite pet.

GERDA (*despite herself*). What is it?

REDHEAD. Just you wait. (*She pulls on the rope.*) Here he comes.

(*Enter REINDEER.*)

GERDA. He's beautiful.

REDHEAD. Of course he is. I don't keep ugly pets. But you have to hold onto him or one leap and he would be away.

GERDA. What's his name?

REDHEAD. Reindeers don't have names like people have names! I just call him Reindeer.

GERDA. Well, Reindeer, I wonder if you know where the Ice Palace is?

REINDEER. Who should know better than I for I was born in Lapland. It is my home and I have run across the great ice fields.

REDHEAD. Then tell Gerda she would die in the ice. I know you've heard all she said. She talked loud enough and you've got big ears.

REINDEER. You should let her go.

REDHEAD. What?

REINDEER. I will take her to the Ice Palace.

GERDA. Could you really take me?

REDHEAD. No, he couldn't. (*To REINDEER*) Traitor! (*To GERDA.*) He's my pet—remember! (*She holds a knife at REINDEER's throat.*) I love the way his coat shivers when I tickle his throat.

GERDA. Please let him go.

REDHEAD (*rounding on GERDA*). You're asking for it! Stand up! Hurry! Give me your coat, and your muff. I want them. (*She takes the coat and the muff.*) What else have you got? Come on!

GERDA. Nothing.

REDHEAD. That ring on your finger. Give me it.

GERDA. O, no, not that.

REDHEAD. Then, I'll take it! (*She takes hold of GERDA's hand and pulls the ring off.*) It's mine now. You're not very strong are you? What a funny ring. (*She breathes on it and rubs it over her heart.*)

GERDA. Give me that back!

REDHEAD. It's got a picture of the Sun engraved on it. It even feels hot.

GERDA. I promised I'd never lose it.

REDHEAD. I wonder if it's real gold. (*She breathes on it and rubs it.*)

GERDA. Don't do that.

REDHEAD. Why not?

GERDA. It's a magic ring.

REDHEAD. Magic—you must think I'm stupid.

(*REDHEAD breathes on it and shines its gold over her heart for the third time. The fire's heart glows and smokes. BHIMA appears from the fire, by magic.*)

GERDA. Bhima!

BHIMA. Gerda—are you safe?

GERDA (*nods her answer*). It wasn't me who called you, it was...

REDHEAD. Who's he?

GERDA. He's my pet. He's a magician.

BHIMA. But Gerda, why are you here?

GERDA. She won't let me go.

REDHEAD. She's mine! I do what I like with her.

BHIMA. Give Gerda her ring back and set her free.

REDHEAD. Why should I, bigmouth?

BHIMA. You can feel the cold, can't you? (*REDHEAD nods.*) Well, if Gerda does not rescue Kay it will go on getting colder and colder until the World is frozen forever. You must let her go.

REDHEAD. There's no such thing as must! If you're a magician then use your magic to save Kay. Go on—let's see you.

BHIMA. I can't. Her magic is much greater than mine.

REDHEAD. Her magic?

GERDA. My magic?

BHIMA. Yes—her magic. Don't you understand how great it is? Don't you see how men and animals must serve her—how else could she have come so far? Her power is in her heart for she is innocent and strong. If she can't get into the Ice Palace and free Kay then there is nothing you or I or anyone else can do. You must let her go. (*BHIMA begins to fade into the darkness beyond the fire. REDHEAD reaches her decision, embraces REINDEER.*)

GERDA. Don't go, Bhima.

BHIMA. I must. My magic is weak. But free Kay and I'll show you magic.

GERDA. O, Bhima... (*BHIMA vanishes. REDHEAD leads REINDEER to GERDA.*)

REDHEAD. I'd love to tickle you a lot more with my sharp knife because then you're funny. (*Slips his rope.*) I'm going to set you free and let you run home to Lapland. But you must promise to take Gerda all the way to the Ice Palace. Do you promise?

REINDEER. I promise.

GERDA. O, thank—

REDHEAD. Keep quiet, I'm speaking! Here's a bag of food. There's a loaf of bread, some ham and a fish. And here's your ring. (*GERDA puts the ring on her finger, takes her coat and the bag of food. (ROBBER WOMAN'S VOICE from off, roaring drunk and singing.)*)

GERDA. What's that?

REDHEAD. It's only Mama.

(*Enter ROBBER WOMAN, roaring drunk.*)

GERDA. She won't try to stop me, will she?

REDHEAD. Don't worry. Soon she'll take a drink from the big bottle. Watch. (*The ROBBER WOMAN drinks from the big bottle.*) And then she'll fall over. Watch. (*ROBBER WOMAN falls over.*)

GERDA. Why do they do it?

REDHEAD. I really don't know. Now hurry up and go.

GERDA. Thank you. I'll never forget you.

REDHEAD. If you make me cry I'll fight you. Go. Go on—before I change my mind. (*Exit GERDA and REINDEER.*) I wanted to keep her. She'll find her friend and I'll be here all on my own. I wanted to keep

her. (*She kicks ROBBER WOMAN, who springs to her feet.*)

ROBBER WOMAN. What's the matter? Where am I?  
Who am I?

REDHEAD. I was lonely.

ROBBER WOMAN (*holding her arms open*). Come to  
Mama.

REDHEAD. I love you, Mama. (*The ROBBER WOMAN  
hugs her and lifts her up.*)

ROBBER WOMAN. And I love you too. There's my little  
girl. Come on to bed, come on to your bed. (*She exits,  
carrying REDHEAD.*)

### SCENE THREE

SCENE: *The icy wastes, outside the Ice Palace. Enter the  
SNOW QUEEN flanked by her two POLAR BEARS.*

SNOW QUEEN. Listen! Listen to your Queen! It has  
turned. The world has turned—to ice! The deepest  
oceans are choked by huge icebergs. The tallest trees  
are buried under great falls of snow. All is well. Winter  
will last forever. Come, my servants.

(*Enter KAY and COBWEB SPIDER.*)

SNOW QUEEN. Welcome my little snow man. I have  
shown you my kingdom of ice. Now I will show you  
my Palace. Behold! (*The huge gates of the Ice Palace  
are revealed by magic.*) And how do you like my Pal-  
ace of Ice?

KAY (*entranced*). I like it very well, thank you.

SNOW QUEEN. That's my good little boy. But how cold  
you look. You are shivering. Come, Kay, let me kiss  
you again. (*She kisses him.*) That's better now, isn't it?

KAY. Yes, thank you.

SNOW QUEEN. But I must be careful or I will kiss you  
to death. Soon I will show you my throne room. You  
will like it so much there you will want to stay forever.

KAY. Forever.

SNOW QUEEN (*suddenly to BEARS*). Now my bears—  
you will guard the gates. Let no one enter. I command  
it! (*BEARS bow and exit.*) My power is irresistible! (*To  
KAY, gently.*) But now that I have you what shall I do  
with you? Tell me again how clever you are.

KAY. I was the cleverest boy in all the school. I can do  
mental arithmetic even with fractions and I know all the  
areas and populations of all the different countries.

SNOW QUEEN. That is clever. I am going to ask you to  
do something for me. I want you to count to forever.

KAY. Forever? But that's imposs...

SNOW QUEEN (*stroking KAY's face*). I said I want you  
to count to forever.

KAY. I will do whatever you ask.

SNOW QUEEN. Good, and when you have counted that  
far I will give you the whole world and a new pair of  
skates. Commence. (*KAY begins quietly to count.*) He  
wants to please me so much he actually thinks he can  
count to forever. The little fool. But it will give him  
something to do as the centuries go by. (*To COBWEB.*)  
Bring him. (*She exits through the Palace gates which  
open for her by magic.*)

COBWEB (*gently, to KAY*). You must do as she says.  
(*KAY keeps counting.*) Soon you will be so stiff with

cold that your lips will not move and the numbers will sound only in your head. Come, Kay, this way. You are hers now—forever. (*Exit, through the gates which close behind them by magic.*)

## SCENE FOUR

SCENE: *The Frozen Village of Spitzbergen. Enter REINDEER through the auditorium, carrying GERDA on his back. GERDA is asleep.*

REINDEER. Gerda, wake up, Gerda—we're almost there.  
(*GERDA awakens.*)

GERDA. O, it's you, Reindeer. I thought for a moment I was home with my Grandma. Where is this place?

REINDEER. It is the village of Spitzbergen.

GERDA. Spitzbergen—already! We've come so far while I was asleep.

REINDEER. You're not heavy and it is lovely to run across the ice. (*She gets down from his back.*)

GERDA. Where's her Ice Palace?

REINDEER. There. You can see the gates.

GERDA. So close! And it's huge. O Reindeer, must I really go there?

REINDEER. I have promised to go with you.

GERDA (*stroking him*). You make me strong. But if this is a village then where are all the houses; where are all the people?

REINDEER. They have long been buried under the ice. It is a ghost town.

GERDA. A ghost town! I don't like the sound of that.  
(*The sound of many whispering VOICES, almost like a wind.*) And I don't like the sound of that either.

REINDEER (*urgently*). Quiet! Stay near to me. (*The sound gets louder.*) Hurry—we must leave here.

GERDA. But why?

REINDEER. Quickly. It is the Ice-Ghosts.

GERDA. Ice-Ghosts!

(*They go to exit but they are prevented by the entrance of four ICE-GHOSTS—from all sides.*)

GERDA. They're all around us!

REINDEER. They are the ghosts of all the children The Snow Queen has frozen to death.

FIRST GHOST. Tres...

SECOND GHOST. ...passers.

THIRD GHOST. Leave our village.

FOURTH GHOST. Or we will take you down into the ice.

GERDA. We are going—to the Ice Palace.

FOURTH GHOST. Then you are doomed.

THIRD GHOST. Her Palace is empty.

SECOND GHOST. Vast.

FIRST GHOST. And terrifyingly cold.

FOURTH GHOST. The walls are snowdrifts.

THIRD GHOST. Her sharp winds have cut the windows and doors.

SECOND GHOST. There are a hundred great halls.

FIRST GHOST. Each one many miles long.

GERDA. Leave us alone. Go away. All of you!

FIRST GHOST. No one

SECOND GHOST. Ever

THIRD GHOST. Escapes

FOURTH GHOST. From the Ice Palace.

REINDEER. You heard her! Get back! Or I will trample you into the ice. (*Three of the ICE-GHOSTS withdraw and exit. The remaining ICE-GHOST stands silently, without threat. GERDA moves to him.*) Gerda—stay back.

GERDA (*to GHOST*). You won't frighten me. I'm going to the Palace.

GHOST. Then go. You have been warned. If you ever get in, you will never get out. (*He goes to exit.*)

GERDA. Don't go. I have to ask you—is Kay alive?

GHOST. He is alive.

GERDA. Are you sure?

GHOST. I have been down in the ice. The dead are there, but not Kay.

GERDA. O, thank you.

GHOST. But soon she will take his life and yours, like she has taken all of ours—one child for every Winter since the beginning of time. Free the boy and you free us from the ice. (*He begins to withdraw into the ice.*) But no one ever escapes from the Snow Queen. (*Exits.*)

GERDA. O, Reindeer, I feel so cold. They really scared me.

REINDEER. We must go on, you know that.

GERDA. Yes, I know that. Kay is alive.

REINDEER. Come on then—onto my back.

GERDA. No. Thank you, but I'll walk this last mile myself.

REINDEER. As you wish. But remember—her great bears.

GERDA. Of course—her guards. I'd forgotten all about them. If they catch us they'll tear us to pieces.

REINDEER. They're guarding the main gates. We'll never get past them and there is no other way in.

GERDA. I won't give up.

REINDEER. But what can we do?

GERDA. I'm thinking. (*Fingers ring.*) Wait a minute. I wonder if we could—I wonder.

REINDEER. What?

GERDA. The bag! Give me the bag. (*She takes the bag from around REINDEER's neck.*)

REINDEER. But why?

GERDA (*looking inside bag*). I've got an idea.

REINDEER. But the bears.

GERDA. Come on! (*Exit.*)

#### SCENE FIVE

SCENE: *The gates of the Ice Palace. Enter POLAR BEARS.*

TOUGH BEAR. None shall pass!

SOFT BEAR. None shall enter!

TOUGH BEAR. The one who tries!

SOFT BEAR. His bones we'll splinter! (*They come to attention in front of the huge gates. SOFT BEAR begins to shiver and blow on his paws.*)

TOUGH BEAR. Stop that!

SOFT BEAR. Why should I?

TOUGH BEAR. It's soft, that's why.

SOFT BEAR. Here?

TOUGH BEAR. What?

SOFT BEAR. Are you sure I'm a Polar Bear?

TOUGH BEAR. Don't be stupid! Of course you're a Polar Bear. Why do you ask?

SOFT BEAR. Because I'm f-f-f-freezing.

TOUGH BEAR. Are you trying to be funny?

SOFT BEAR. No.

TOUGH BEAR. Just as well. It is forbidden to be funny on duty! We must think of nothing but our duty!

SOFT BEAR. I can't stop thinking about food. I haven't seen a fish for weeks. The ice is so thick I can't break through to the water. O, I love fish.

TOUGH BEAR. I'd kill for a fish! I'm starving hungry!

SOFT BEAR. Bet you're not as starving hungry as I am.

TOUGH BEAR. Bet I am so!

SOFT BEAR. I could eat a walrus.

TOUGH BEAR. Huh—I could eat a reindeer.

*(Enter REINDEER, at a run.)*

REINDEER. Psssst.

SOFT BEAR. What was that?

TOUGH BEAR. O, nothing, it's only...a reindeer!

SOFT BEAR. Quickly! After it!

TOUGH BEAR. I'll catch it. You guard the gates. *(Exit REINDEER, pursued by TOUGH BEAR.)*

SOFT BEAR *(shouting after TOUGH BEAR)*. Bring me back a bit. I bet he doesn't. He gets everything his way just because he's tougher than me. It's not fair. Poor me.

*(Enter GERDA.)*

GERDA. Hullo, Mister Polar Bear.

SOFT BEAR. Huh?

GERDA. I've brought you a present from the Snow Queen. *(She reaches into the bag.)* She told me to give you this. *(She produces a fish and holds it up.)*

SOFT BEAR. A fish! For me?

GERDA. Yes, and she said I was to make sure and give it only to you. She said you deserve it because you're the best Polar Bear in the whole world.

SOFT BEAR. Just gimme the fish! *(He snatches the fish.)*

GERDA. Bye-bye Mister Polar Bear. *(Exits.)*

SOFT BEAR. It is a fish. All mine, all mine.

*(Enter TOUGH BEAR, out of breath. SOFT BEAR hides the fish behind his back.)*

SOFT BEAR. O, it's only you. Where's my bit then?

TOUGH BEAR. I lost him. He was too fast for me. *(Looks at SOFT BEAR suspiciously.)* What's the matter with your snout?

SOFT BEAR. Nothing.

TOUGH BEAR. You look guilty!

SOFT BEAR. Guilty—me? Don't be daft.

TOUGH BEAR. What are you doing behind your back?

SOFT BEAR. Scratching my bum—any objections?

TOUGH BEAR *(sniffing)*. There's something fishy about this. *(He springs at SOFT BEAR. SOFT BEAR jumps out of the way but reveals the fish.)* Ah-ha—a fish!

SOFT BEAR. Where? O, there. So it is.

TOUGH BEAR. I'd kill for a fish.

SOFT BEAR. So you've said.

TOUGH BEAR. Give me the fish!

SOFT BEAR. Shan't. The Snow Queen gave it to me because I'm her best bear.

TOUGH BEAR. Rubbish—I'm the best bear. Give me the fish!

SOFT BEAR. Shan't.

TOUGH BEAR. Then I'll just have to take it.

SOFT BEAR. You'll have to catch me first.

TOUGH BEAR. If that's the way you want it. Come here!  
(*He chases SOFT BEAR around in circles, then chases him off.*)

(*Enter GERDA and REINDEER, looking around cautiously.*)

REINDEER. It worked—they've gone. You're a genius.

GERDA. You did all the hard work.

REINDEER. Well, Gerda, here we are at the Ice Palace at the top of the World.

GERDA. Yes, Reindeer, here we are—and here we go.  
(*They enter the gates.*)

(*Enter BEARS who chase each other around and around.*)

#### SCENE SIX

SCENE: *The throne room in the Ice Palace. Enter the SNOW QUEEN.*

SNOW QUEEN. Hurry. Bring him.

(*Enter COBWEB with KAY. KAY's movements are stiff and frozen.*)

COBWEB. He is so stiff he can hardly walk.

SNOW QUEEN. Well my little Kay, this is my throne room. It is the coldest place in the world. Don't you think it's beautiful? (*KAY continues to count dreamily*

*under his breath.*) But of course, you are counting to forever for me. What a clever boy you are. (*To COBWEB.*) Place him in the ice!

COBWEB (*to AUDIENCE*).

O, yes, you think we're loathsome  
But just don't think we're both some  
Bad dream come true.  
This is real  
Can't you feel  
The cold!

KAY (*a faint flicker of feeling*). No more cold. Please, no more ice.

SNOW QUEEN (*stroking his face*). But you love the ice.

KAY. I love...I love the ice.

SNOW QUEEN. Trust me.

KAY. Trust you.

SNOW QUEEN. Place him! (*COBWEB places KAY in the ice.*) I have him! Victory is mine! (*Gently, to KAY.*) How lovely it will be to have you always beside me. Sleep my little snow man, sleep forevermore. The winds will play a tune that longs for sleep. (*She hums a beautiful lullaby.*) Sleep my little snow man, sleep forevermore. (*Exit SNOW QUEEN and COBWEB.*)

(*Enter GERDA and REINDEER.*)

GERDA. O, Reindeer, it's so cold in here.

REINDEER. We must find him quickly, or we'll freeze.

GERDA. I won't let her freeze me. Where are you, Kay?

You must be here. You must be.

REINDEER. There—in the ice!



GERDA. It is him! It's Kay! *(They run to KAY.)* I thought I'd never ever find you. Kay? What is it? What's the matter?

REINDEER. He can't move.

GERDA. Answer me, Kay. It's me. It's Gerda.

REINDEER. He's colder than the ice.

GERDA. Please wake up. You've got to wake up. I've come through the forest. I've been lost and lonely. I've even crossed the ice—and all to find you, Kay. Just to find you. *(She begins to cry.)* Wake up, please.

REINDEER. Leave him, Gerda. It's too late. His heart is frozen.

GERDA. No! I can't leave him. I won't!

REINDEER. You must. Quickly, or the Snow Queen will come.

GERDA. I won't leave him. *(She hugs KAY.)*

REINDEER *(pulling her away)*. Then I'll have to take you.

GERDA. Leave me alone. *(She goes back to KAY.)*

REINDEER. Wait! His hand—it moved!

GERDA. You imagined it.

REINDEER. Look—it moved again. Of course—your tears! Your tears are melting the ice; they're melting his heart.

GERDA. O, Reindeer, if only that was true.

REINDEER. It is true! *(KAY's hand moves. GERDA takes hold of it.)* It's your tears, it is. Keep crying. Come on—keep crying.

GERDA *(laughing and crying)*. I'm not crying on purpose. That's stupid! I can't just cry when I want to.

REINDEER. But it's working—look. *(He pulls out the evil splinter from KAY's heart.)*

GERDA. It's the evil splinter.

KAY. Gerda.

GERDA. Kay.

KAY. Leave me. Leave me alone!

REINDEER. Remember—there is still the speck in his eye.

GERDA. I won't leave you, Kay. We're going back to Grandma.

KAY. Grandma?

GERDA. Yes, Grandma. She's been all alone without us.

KAY. Alone. *(He begins to cry, and embraces GERDA.)*

REINDEER. That's it. The evil speck will be washed away by his tears.

KAY. It's been so cold and I've been so alone. *(A wind gets up.)*

REINDEER. The Snow Queen!

KAY. She's coming back! *(GERDA and REINDEER hide. KAY resumes his place in the ice.)*

*(Enter the SNOW QUEEN and COBWEB SPIDER.)*

SNOW QUEEN. How many times must I tell you—I no longer require your services.

COBWEB. But you said. You said you would make me a Prince in your Empire of Ice.

SNOW QUEEN. Get out of my sight. *(KAY, GERDA and REINDEER try to make their escape.)*

COBWEB. After all I've done for you! You can't just throw me away. *(The SNOW QUEEN rounds on him. KAY, GERDA and REINDEER are forced back into hiding.)*

SNOW QUEEN. There is nothing I cannot do! Leave my Palace.

COBWEB. But I'll freeze. Without your magic to protect me, I'll freeze to death.

SNOW QUEEN. Then so be it.

COBWEB. You'll be all on your own.

SNOW QUEEN. I have the boy. I will never be alone again. Never! (*KAY, GERDA and REINDEER again try to make their escape.*) I always meant to get rid of you.

COBWEB. Always?

SNOW QUEEN. Always. Now get out of my sight. (*COBWEB turns and sees KAY, GERDA and REINDEER. They freeze in shock. COBWEB considers his options.*) I said get out!

COBWEB. As you say, Mistress. (*He ushers KAY, GERDA and REINDEER to freedom with an urgent wave. They make their escape. COBWEB, behind the SNOW QUEEN's back, performs a last, ironic bow, and exits in pursuit.*)

SNOW QUEEN. I have my little boy and now that I have him I have all that I need. The Sun is dead. Long live the Ice. Long live the Snow Queen. So now, little Kay—I will kiss you for the last time. (*She turns.*) Kay? (*A scream.*) Kaaayyy!

#### SCENE SEVEN

SCENE: *Outside the Ice Palace. Enter KAY, GERDA, REINDEER and COBWEB.*

KAY. It feels so good to be free again.

REINDEER. Hurry—she'll come after us.

COBWEB. She'll never give up.

REINDEER. I could carry one of you—but not both.

GERDA. You're a true friend.

COBWEB. I can't believe it; just like that she threw me out. I'm going out into the ice. (*He goes to exit.*)

GERDA. Please don't. Stay here with us.

COBWEB. After all I've done?

GERDA. That's over. You're on our side now.

KAY. You helped us escape. Stay.

COBWEB. Do you mean it?

GERDA. Yes, we mean it.

COBWEB. Thank you, both of you. Thank you very much. (*Music, and the sound of many VOICES, almost like a wind.*)

KAY. What's that?

REINDEER. The Ice-Ghosts. They're free because you're free. We've broken the Snow Queen's spell.

COBWEB. She'll be furious.

REINDEER. You've got to run.

KAY. No, Reindeer. She would catch us. She can fly through the air.

COBWEB. Then she has won again. (*GERDA takes the ring off her finger. She breathes on it and shines its gold over her heart.*)

REINDEER. Of course—your ring!

KAY. What ring?

GERDA. Bhima's ring. He's the magician who gave it to me. Come on, Bhima. (*Rubs ring for a second time.*) Please, Bhima. (*She rubs the ring for the third time. Nothing happens. KAY, REINDEER and COBWEB sag with disappointment.*) Come on, Bhima—I need you this time more than ever before.

(*BHIMA appears by magic.*)

BHIMA. Gerda! You're alive!

GERDA. Yes, and look—it's Kay.

BHIMA. You've broken her spell! You've saved us all.

(*He sees COBWEB.*) But him! What's he doing here?

KAY. He's our friend now.

BHIMA. I don't believe it.

GERDA. There's no time to argue. (*A wind gets up.*)

REINDEER. Listen. She is on her way. You must leave this place.

GERDA. Aren't you coming with us?

REINDEER. No, Gerda. This is my home. I will stay here.

GERDA. Thank you for everything.

REINDEER. It has been a pleasure.

GERDA (*embracing him*). Good-bye, dear Reindeer.

REINDEER. Good-bye, Gerda. Good-bye, everyone.

(*Exits.*)

KAY. I can see her. She's coming!

BHIMA. Quickly—hold hands and form a circle. (*To*

*GERDA.*) Your courage has won me back my magic.

The Sun is rising and I am strong again. A circle—

quickly. (*They link hands and dance round and round,*

*faster and faster.*)

The magic of the Sun

Never knows fear

Let children find fun

Far away from here.

Away!

(*A roar of winds and they vanish, by magic. The thaw commences.*)

## SCENE EIGHT

SCENE: *Home at GRANDMA's. Enter GRANDMA, wrapped up against the cold.*

GRANDMA. Kay, Gerda—are you there? No, of course you're not. (*To AUDIENCE.*) Every day I call out their names but they are never there. It's been lonely without them, not like a home at all, and very, very cold. (*She stamps her feet against the cold and blows on her hands.*) I've had to blow on my hands so much sometimes I run right out of breath. But maybe you could do it for me. Will you breathe on me and heat me up?

AUDIENCE. Yes.

GRANDMA. Thank you. Here we go then. Take a big, deep breath and—breathe out. (*AUDIENCE breathes out. GRANDMA basks in the heat. The thaw continues.*) O, that's lovely and warm. Again, again. Big, deep breath and—breathe out. (*AUDIENCE breathes out.*) Wonderful. You lot are better than a hot water bottle. But wait a minute, the ice—it's melting! Maybe Winter is passing at last and I'll be able to work in my garden again. If only Kay and Gerda would come home...I think I hear someone. Someone's coming! I hope it's Kay and Gerda. O please, let it be them.

(*Enter the SNOW QUEEN.*)

SNOW QUEEN. Where is he? Tell me, old woman. Where is Kay?

GRANDMA. Even if I knew I would never tell you.

SNOW QUEEN. Old witch! I'll turn you to ice.

*(KAY enters, by magic.)*

KAY. I'm home, Grandma—I'm home.

SNOW QUEEN. Welcome.

KAY. You! You beat us back.

GRANDMA. I won't let you take him again. *(She attacks the SNOW QUEEN who performs a simple, magic gesture and GRANDMA is hurled to the ground.)*

SNOW QUEEN. Come to me, Kay. You are mine.

KAY. No.

*(Enter COBWEB, by magic.)*

SNOW QUEEN. You helped them. You'll pay for that.

GRANDMA. Run, Kay.

KAY *(going to her)*. Grandma, are you all right?

GRANDMA. Never mind me. Run! *(KAY goes to run.)*

SNOW QUEEN. Be still, boy! *(KAY is stilled.)* Now, come to me. Come.

KAY *(backing slowly towards her)*. No. I don't want to, but...

SNOW QUEEN. You can't help yourself. My magic is too strong.

*(GERDA enters, by magic.)*

GERDA. Grandma! *(Hugs her.)* What's the matter? *(Looks up.)* Kay! *(KAY continues to back away from GERDA, COBWEB and GRANDMA, towards the SNOW QUEEN.)*

SNOW QUEEN. He is my little boy. He knows this deep in his heart. *(She produces an evil, sparkling splinter.)*

GERDA. She's got an evil splinter!

SNOW QUEEN. Come, Kay. Come to me.

GERDA. Stay, Kay, stay with us. *(KAY reaches out for GERDA, but moves towards the SNOW QUEEN.)*

KAY. I can't stop myself.

ALL. Stay, stay! Stay with us!

SNOW QUEEN. Come, Kay.

GERDA *(to AUDIENCE)*. You can help us save Kay. Tell Kay to stay.

AUDIENCE. Stay! Stay! Stay! *(KAY runs to GERDA. The SNOW QUEEN twists in pain, sags in defeat.)*

SNOW QUEEN. He is mine, he is mine.

*(Enter BHIMA, magnificent in a vast sun-red cloak.)*

SNOW QUEEN. The Sun!

BHIMA *(almost gently)*. Winter is ending. You grow weak, I grow strong. Feel the Sun! It is rising in the sky.

SNOW QUEEN. I will fight. The boy is mine. I will fight! *(BHIMA raises his arms high.)*

BHIMA. Powers of the Sun

Come—let it be done!

*(A burst of light. The SNOW QUEEN vanishes.)*

COBWEB *(examining the spot where she stood)*. She's melted into thin air.

GRANDMA. You've beaten her! You've beaten the Snow Queen! *(She hugs KAY and GERDA.)*

KAY. It was Gerda who did it.

GERDA. O, I had help from everyone. But she won't come back will she?

BHIMA. Winter will come every year but thanks to you it will never last forever.

GRANDMA. Can't you feel it? The Sun is rising.

GERDA. Here it comes—I can feel its breath on my skin.

KAY. It's coming nearer and nearer.

GERDA. It's lovely. (*The Sun bursts through.*)

(SONG: "BHIMA'S SONG")

ALL. SUMMER SONG, SUMMER SONG,  
WE'LL SING OUR SUMMER SONG.  
WE'LL SING ALL SUMMER LONG,  
SUMMER SONG, SUMMER SONG,  
WE'RE BACK WHERE WE BELONG.

YOU DON'T HAVE HEARTS OF ICE—  
COME ON—YOU MUST HAVE FELT IT,  
SUN BROKE THROUGH, SUN BROKE  
THROUGH  
AND ALL THE ICE HAS MELTED.

WE'LL BE YOUNG AT HEART FOREVER,  
FOREVER YOUNG AT HEART  
FOR THAT'S THE PART THAT'S MAGICAL,  
THAT'S THE MAGICAL PART.

THE END

## PRODUCTION NOTES

**MUSIC:** This is much more of a play with music than any kind of conventional musical. The music should operate throughout like a film-score, to underpin action, magic and character.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** It may seem a strange convention to ask the audience to "talk back" to onstage characters, but it can be a generous and highly theatrical device. Young children, in particular, enjoy it immensely. It is fatal, though, to take this on half-heartedly. It must be done with spark and conviction, or not at all.

**VOCABULARY:** Some of the Scottish words and terms may prove difficult:

"Clatter" (p. 14) means to box, or strike.

"Poultice" (pps. 51, 61, 62) and "Scunnerlugs" (p. 60) both mean idiot or ridiculous buffoon.

"A fish supper" (p. 27) is a kind of take-away food.

"Here we go, here we go" (p. 59) is a popular football chant.

If alternatives to these are sought I would rather they were chosen by the companies involved. It might be helpful to remember that "Clatter," "Poultice" and "Scunnerlugs" were chosen for their sound as much as their meaning.