



*Let Your
Hair Down,*
RAPUNZEL

*Book by
Karen Boettcher-Tate*

*Music and Lyrics
by Scott DeTurk*

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For Preview Only

LET YOUR HAIR DOWN, RAPUNZEL

By KAREN BOETTCHER-TATE

Music and Lyrics by SCOTT DeTURK

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

	<i># of lines</i>
WALT SHWARTZBUCKLE.....father of Rapunzel, a nice guy	83
RENE SHWARTZBUCKLE.....his perky wife	61
THE GLUMPWARTS.....the witch's diabolical henchmen, weird, slimy and disgusting	23
WITCH IZWITCHa typical old crone, mean and nasty	63
KING ZEEK FURADAY.....friendly and competent	42
QUEEN PETUNIA FURADAY....his wife, a bit scatterbrained	21
PRINCE BUMPUS.....their son, a Mr. Universe wannabe	9
PRINCE MARKIE.....another son, a financial wizard	6
PRINCE LLEWELLYN.....their myopic nerdy son with a genius for science	58
RAPUNZEL SHWARTZBUCKLE.....beautiful but feisty	73
PARSLEY.....one of three sages. Goofy-looking, brilliant, not practical	11
ROSEMARY.....another	9
THYME.....another	11
SIR SQUASHLY.....one of three knights. Handsome, brave and true, but lacking intelligence	5
SIR NORT.....another	5
SIR NASEUM.....another	4
SAM.....one of three jesters. Completely cuckoo	12
CRAM.....another	10
SPAM.....another	13
OPTIONAL EXTRAS.....attendants	

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene One: Home of Walter and Rene Shwartzbuckle

Scene Two: Castle of King and Queen Furaday. Eighteen years later

Scene Three: Home of Walter and Rene Shwartzbuckle

Scene Four: Castle of King and Queen Furaday

Scene Five: Deep, dark forest

SEQUENCE OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

MC 1	Let Your Hair Down.....	Company
MC 2	When You Gotta Have It.....	Rene, Walt
MC 2a	When You Gotta Have It (Reprise).....	Witch, Glumpwarts
MC3	The Royal Family.....	King Queen, Bumpus, Markie, Llewellyn
MC 4	Sweet Sixteen.....	Walt, Rene, Rapunzel
MC 4a	When You Gotta Have It (Reprise).....	Witch, Glumpwarts
MC 5	I Always Dreamed.....	Llewellyn, Sages, Knights, Jesters
MC 5a	I Always Dreamed.....	Instrumental
MC 6	Love at First Sight.....	Llewellyn, Rapunzel
MC 7	I'm a Nut.....	Jesters
MC 8	Just Because You're Different.....	Rapunzel, Llewellyn, Witch, Glumpwarts
MC 8a	Let Your Hair Down (Reprise).....	Company

LET YOUR HAIR DOWN, RAPUNZEL

Scene One

TIME: Anytime—past, present or future.

PLACE: The Kingdom of Ain't, at the home of WALT and RENE SHWARTZBUCKLE.

AT RISE: The COMPANY is arrayed across the apron in front of the grand drape. If there is no curtain, it may be played before the tower set, which is masked. WALT, RENE and RAPUNZEL are STAGE RIGHT. The KING, QUEEN and PRINCES are STAGE CENTER and the KNIGHTS, SAGES, JESTERS, WITCH, and GLUMPWARTS are STAGE LEFT. A small stool is behind the COMPANY STAGE RIGHT. On the stool is the kingdom's daily newspaper, the "Ain't Right." **MUSIC CUE 1:** "Let Your Hair Down."

JESTERS: (*Sing.*) You can be a joker.

KING: (*Sings.*) You can be a king.

RENE/QUEEN: (*Sing.*) You can be the mother of a difficult, young thing.

KNIGHTS: (*Sing.*) You can be a hero.

LEW: (*Sings.*) You can be a nerd.

SAGES: (*Sing.*) You can give the best advice the world has ever heard.

WALT/RENE/RAPUNZEL: (*Sing.*) But when your life gets too serious,

COMPANY: (*Sings*) Oooh.

WITCH/GLUMPWARTS: (*Sing.*) The smallest task is a chore.

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) Oooh.

KING/QUEEN/PRINCES: (*Sing.*) All the stress makes you delirious.

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) Oooh.

KNIGHTS/SAGES/JESTERS: (*Sing.*) Suddenly you've become a bore.

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) It's time to let your hair down,

Have a little fun,

Put a smile on your face,

Chase the blues on the run.

Let your hair down,

Kickin' up your heels,

Nothin' like a good laugh, (*ALL laugh.*)

You're gonna love how it feels.

RAPUNZEL: (*Sings.*) You can be a beauty.

GLUMPWARTS: (*Sing.*) You can be a troll.

WALT: (*Sings.*) You can be a father who has dug himself a hole.

BUMPUS: (*Sings.*) You can have the muscle.

MARKIE: (*Sings.*) You can have the brain.

WITCH: (*Sings.*)

You can have the power to drive someone else insane.

WALT/RENE/RAPUNZEL: (*Sing.*) But when your life gets too serious,

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) Oooh.

WITCH/GLUMPWARTS: (*Sing.*) One little glitch and you scream.

(*ALL scream.*)

KING/QUEEN/PRINCES: (*Sing.*) Before you know it, you're furious,

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) Oooh.

KNIGHTS/SAGES/JESTERS: (*Sing.*)

And your life is one big, bad dream.

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) It's time to let your hair down,

Have a little fun,

Put a smile on your face,

Chase the blues on the run.

Let your hair down,

Kickin' up your heels,

Get a little silly,

Nothin' else appeals,

Nothin' like a good laugh, (*ALL laugh.*)

You're gonna love how it feels. (*ALL EXIT DOWN RIGHT and DOWN LEFT except for WALT and RENE. WALT moves to the stool, picks up the newspaper, sits and reads it. His wife, RENE, paces back and forth, slightly UPSTAGE and to the LEFT of him. She sighs on occasion, moans, wrings her hands and generally looks distraught. WALT notices the audience and folds up the newspaper.*)

WALT: (*At end of song.*) Oh, hello! Nice to see you. Welcome to our home. My name is Walter Shwartzbuckle, and that's my wife, Rene. (*RENE moans loudly. She's very agitated.*) Just a minute... (*He snaps his fingers, and RENE freezes.*) There, that's better! You can do that kind of stuff in a fairy tale, you know! See, I'll show you. (*He snaps his fingers, and RENE comes to life, moans, etc., then he snaps them again and she freezes.*) Neat, huh? Anyway, where was I? Oh, yes, we're the

Shwartzbuckles, and this is the Kingdom of Ain't. Actually, it's Isn't, not Ain't, but that's another story, isn't it? It's a beautiful kingdom, ruled by King Furaday and Queen Furaday. We are quite prosperous here. Crops are good, great schools, stocks are up. Yep, everything is about as good as it gets... well, except for one little tiny thing... the old hag... I mean, old bat... I mean... witch who lives next door. But, enough of this. You'll find out in a bit. Let's get on with the story! (*He snaps his fingers, action resumes, RENE paces. He goes back to his newspaper.*)

RENE: Oh, my! Oh, dear! Oh, woe is me! Oh, remorse and agitation!

WALT: (*Looking up from his newspaper.*) Rene Shwartzbuckle, what on earth is the matter?

RENE: (*Looking OFF LEFT.*) Oh, lackaday, I can see the witch's garden.

WALT: And?

RENE: I can't stand it. I shall go mad.

WALT: Then don't look. The weeds aren't that bad.

RENE: No, husband, no. It's... it's... the rampion!

WALT: The who?

RENE: Rampion! Beautiful succulent rampion! I must have some! I must! I must!

WALT: What the devil is rampion?

RENE: Rapunzel.

WALT: Huh?

RENE: It's also called rapunzel. I have to have some! I have to!

WALT: What's rapunzel?

RENE: It's like turnips, you booby. Ohhh, ohhh, I can't stand it. I have to have it!

WALT: Settle down. Have some lettuce instead. There's plenty of that in our garden.

RENE: No! I have to have rampion. I must!

WALT: (*Putting away his newspaper.*) I'll tell you what. I'll hotfoot it down to the market and pick up some for you.

RENE: (*Crosses to her husband, grabs him by the shirt front, begins to shake him.*) You don't understand! The witch has a corner on the

market. It's the only rampion growing in the entire kingdom. I have to have some!

WALT: I can't ask her for it. Nobody hangs around with her. I've heard some pretty scary stories about her. Just relax.

RENE: I can't relax. I'm obsessed. (*MUSIC CUE 2: "When You Gotta Have It." Sings.*)

Sometimes when you gotta have it,

You gotta have it.

Nothing else will do.

Sometimes when you really need it,

You really need it,

It takes hold of you.

Sometimes when you really crave it,

You really crave it,

You become possessed

Until you hold it, touch it, squeeze it, feel it, rub it, smell it, taste it

Your mind will never rest.

Sometimes when you gotta have it,

WALT: (*Sings.*) You gotta have it?

RENE: (*Sings.*) You can lose control.

WALT: (*Speaks.*) What's going on here?

RENE: (*Sings.*) Something can be an obsession.

WALT: (*Sings.*) It's an obsession?

RENE: (*Sings.*) You'd almost sell your soul.

WALT: (*Speaks.*) Don't say things like that.

RENE: (*Sings.*) Sometimes when it's so important.

WALT: (*Sings.*) It's that important?

RENE: (*Sings.*) You can't get through the day

Until you hold it, touch it, squeeze it, feel it, rub it, smell it, taste it

You'd throw your life away.

WALT: (*Sings.*) You seem like a total stranger I've never met before.

Something has deranged your personality.

When I look into your eyes now I really can't ignore

Someone kind of crazy staring back at me.

Sometimes when you gotta do it,

RENE: (*Sings.*) You gotta do it.

WALT: *(Sings.)* There's no other choice.
Something tells you to get to it.

RENE: *(Sings.)* You must get to it.

WALT: *(Sings.)* It's like another voice.
Isn't there a substitution?

RENE: *(Sings.)* No substitution
Can ever take its place.
Until I hold it, touch it, squeeze it, feel it, rub it, smell it, taste it,
I'll be a basket case. *(At end of song. Speaks.)* Oooo, oooo... *(Starts to faint, staggers around, makes odd noises.)*

WALT: What is it?

RENE: Oh, no. I'm going to faint and drool. I'm going to faint and drool.

WALT: What?

RENE: I said that I'm going to faint and drool. Faint and drool!

WALT: No, no! Anything but that. Don't faint and drool. Don't! I'll go...
"borrow" some rampion. Anything so that you don't faint and drool.
It's so disgusting when you do that.

RENE: *(Comes to.)* Really? You will? Oh, goody, goody! You are wonderful!
(She hugs him wildly.)

WALT: *(Tries to untangle himself from RENE.)* I'm sure Ms. Witch won't
mind. I mean... there seems to be so much. And she isn't around. Just
go splash some cold water on your face and I'll be back in a minute.

RENE: Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you, my knight in shining armor,
my little cutie—ootie, my little snookie-ookie, my—

WALT: *(Shoves her OFFSTAGE RIGHT.)* I'll be back. *(RENE EXITS STAGE RIGHT, striking stool OFF RIGHT. LIGHTS DIM.)* I hope I don't regret this. Nobody seems to be around. *(He steels himself and tiptoes STAGE LEFT. As he starts to cross, rampion is shoved ONSTAGE, either under the curtain, or from STAGE LEFT, in a container. WALT looks around nervously, perhaps hears EERIE NOISES from OFFSTAGE LEFT. He reaches the rampion, looks around to see that no one is looking, picks it up and sneaks back STAGE RIGHT with it. The LIGHTS COME UP. RENE runs ON from STAGE RIGHT.)*

RENE: You did it! You did it! Oh, you sweet thing, you! *(She jumps up and down, squealing with glee.)*

WALT: Don't overact. Here! *(He hands her the rampion, and she races OFFSTAGE RIGHT with it, babbling and laughing.)* Wow! Doesn't take

much to keep her happy, does it? At least I didn't have to watch her faint and drool. Well, that wasn't so bad. Now, maybe life will get back to normal around here.

RENE: (*Races IN from STAGE RIGHT; wiping her mouth. She is a dynamo of energy, effusive, a "blur," jumping around.*) Oh, Walter Shwartzbuckle, you are the most amazing man in the entire Kingdom of Ain't, and I ain't kidding!

WALT: It should be Isn't.

RENE: I "isn't" kidding? That doesn't sound right. But I must have some more!

WALT: You ate it? Already?

RENE: I have an insatiable appetite for rampion. I love it! I adore it! It is my passion!

WALT: But I just got you some. Hey, how about some collard greens instead?

RENE: I don't want anything else. I want some more. I have to have some! I demand some! (*She falls to the floor and drums her heels. WALT tries to ignore her. When she sees that he is not responding, she gets up, assumes exaggerated pose.*) If you don't get me some more rampion, I'll... I'll... I'll faint and drool. I mean it! Eeeek, ooo, ahhh, I feel a drool coming on.

WALT: (*Clutches his heart.*) No, no! Anything but a faint and drool. Don't! I'll get you some more. Pull yourself together. Stop it!

RENE: (*Suddenly composed.*) Oh, you are so sweet. Thank you, thank you, my little sweetie pie. Hurry up! (*She violently pushes WALT toward STAGE LEFT; then EXITS STAGE RIGHT.*)

WALT: (*To audience.*) Ah, what's a guy to do? She has this one little fault. But I don't feel right about sneaking into somebody's garden and just taking what I want. That isn't right, even if she is an old witch. (*Pause.*) I know! I'll leave an I.O.U. or put it on my Visa card or something. Yes! That way it won't be stealing. All right! I'll do it! (*The LIGHTS DIM, WALT sneaks STAGE LEFT to WITCH'S garden. At the same time, the GLUMPWARTS begin to ENTER from various points. They are horrid looking critters. They wear strange clothes with tight-fitting hoods. SPOOKY MUSIC can be played for effect. WALT, of course, does not see them. He turns one way, the GLUMPWARTS hide etc. Finally, WALT reaches the rampion, which has been shoved ONSTAGE again. The GLUMPWARTS freeze to see what he will do. To audience.*)

Well, I guess the coast is clear. I'll just leave this little I.O.U. (*Takes out piece of paper and pen, writes I.O.U., places it near the rampion, then picks up the rampion. No sooner has he done so than the GLUMPWARTS descend upon him. WALT screams.*) No, no! You've got it all wrong! I'm paying for it! Fair market price! I left my I.O.U.!

GLUMPWART 1: Sooo you be a thief!

GLUMPWART 2: A weasel!

GLUMPWART 3: A ferret!

GLUMPWART 4: An ick!

WALT: No, you've got it wrong. I'm not stealing. I'll pay.

GLUMPWART 1: Can't pay fer whatcha steal.

WALT: I didn't. My wife... she'll faint and drool.

GLUMPWART 3: We loves drool.

GLUMPWART 2: The more drooly the better.

GLUMPWARTS 1 & 4: Eeeeeewwww! Yummy!

WALT: Please, don't hurt me! Please!

GLUMPWARTS: (*Sing-song.*) We don't hear youse. (*The GLUMPWARTS begin slow advance on WALT. He is terrified, shaking.*)

WITCH: (*Sweeps ON from STAGE LEFT. She is a very strange witch indeed. She wears a very tight hood, almost like a bathing cap. She snaps her fingers and the scene freezes. She lets out a wonderful cackle. To audience.*) Don'tcha jes' love how that trick works? I could do it ferever an' never git tired. (*She snaps her fingers, the sounds of fear and the movement resume, then snaps them again, and they freeze. Repeats. She laughs crazily.*) Don't take much ta made me happy. Oh, I almost fergot. I'm Witch Izwitch. I own this here rampion patch. In fact, I gots the only rampion in the whole kingdom. (*Suddenly very evil.*) An' this here booby will pay. Nobody crosses Izwitch. Nobody! There was this prince who thought he was tougher than me. All I got to say is, seen any frogs around lately? (*She laughs insanely.*) Now, let's get back to this little situation. Ready? (*She snaps her fingers. Scene resumes. WITCH bellows.*) Knock it off, Glumpwarts! (*Snaps fingers, action freezes. To audience.*) Oh, fergot ta tell ya. Them is me nasty henchmen, the Dread Glumpwarts. Cute little critters, ain't they? (*Snaps fingers, action resumes with GLUMPWARTS closing in on WALT.*) I said, knock it off! (*GLUMPWARTS stop pursuit.*)

WALT: Who are you?

WITCH: Izwitch is the name. Witch Izwitch.

WALT: I don't know.

WITCH: Huh?

WALT: Which is which?

WITCH: No, no, you noodle noggin'. I'm Witch Izwitch!

WALT: You is which?

WITCH: Enough!

WALT: Sorry.

WITCH: So, you're determined to cop me rampion, huh?

WALT: No, I wasn't going to steal. My wife... you see... she said she'd faint and— (*GLUMPWARDS clap and cheer. Shouts of "We love drool," "Yeah for drool," etc.*)

WITCH: Looks like you was stealin' ta me.

WALT: No! I left an I.O.U. I'll be glad to pay. Nobody was around and I—

WITCH: Button yer lip, sucker! So, you decided to defy the law, cowboy, an' git yerself some cheap rampion.

WALT: I told you. It was for my wife. She's really a very nice person, but sometimes she gets a little carried away. She saw your beautiful garden, and something just snapped. She was obsessed with the rampion. Uh... you're a very good gardener.

WITCH: (*Suddenly very sweet and congenial.*) Hey, you knows a good thing when ya sees it. Well, well, well. Maybe I could spare a little bit. In fact, seems ta me, you is so honest, I mean with yer I.O.U. an' all, that I is gonna give you as much rampion as ya want.

WALT: Really? I'll be more than happy to pay for—

WITCH: Nope! Don't have ta pay. It'll be free... fer as long as ya wants it. (*GLUMPWARDS begin to make rumblings. WITCH turns on them.*) Button it up! (*GLUMPWARDS are silent.*) So, go on, take as much as ya want. What did ya say yer name was?

WALT: I didn't. It's Walter. Walter Shwartzbuckle.

WITCH: Shwartzbuckle? Geez, and I thought Izwitch was bad. Well, Walt, help yourself. Anytime. Anytime at all.

WALT: Really?

WITCH: I ain't foolin'. It's yers. Fer life!

WALT: Gosh, I don't believe it! Everybody said that you were a horrible old... *(He catches himself.)*

WITCH: Yesssssss?

WALT: A... a really nice gal!

WITCH: Well, whatcha waitin' fer? Git on home with it.

WALT: I'll... I'll make this up to you. I mean it. We'll have you over for hamburgers or something. Honest. *(He picks up the rampion.)* Thanks. Thanks a million. *(WALT starts to EXIT STAGE RIGHT.)*

WITCH: Oh! Jes' one thing.

WALT: Sure, anything.

WITCH: You kin fergit about yer I.O.U. I'll take somethin' a little further down the line.

WALT: *(Happy.)* You just name it. It's a done deal.

WITCH: In payment fer the rampion here... jes' a little favor. I want yer first-born daughter when she's sixteen!

WALT: Huh? No, no, I don't think so. How about ten bucks?

WITCH: That's the deal, snookie. Yer first-born daughter. When she grows ta 16.

WALT: That's just plain stupid. Nobody would do such a thing. Nobody would— *(The GLUMPWARTS advance on WALT. They are terrifying. WALT is a mess. His life is on the line.)* Okay! Okay! Just call off your ghouls.

WITCH: Back off, Glumpwarts! *(They do.)* Now don't fergit. I never fergit.

WALT: Sure, sure. I— *(WITCH snaps her fingers and WALT freezes. MUSIC CUE 2a: "When You Gotta Have It—Reprise.")*

WITCH: *(Sings.)* Sometimes when you gotta have it,

GLUMPWARTS: *(Sing.)* You gotta have it.

WITCH: *(Sings.)* You can lose control.
Something can be an obsession.

GLUMPWARTS: *(Sing.)* It's an obsession.

WITCH: *(Sings.)* You'd almost sell your soul.

Sometimes when it's so important,

GLUMPWARTS: *(Sing.)* It's that important.

WITCH: *(Sings.)* You can't get through the day

Until you hold it, touch it, squeeze it, feel it, rub it, smell it, taste it.

You'd throw your life away. *(At end of song. WITCH snaps her fingers and WALT comes out of freeze. WITCH and GLUMPWARTS disappear OFFSTAGE in various directions. LIGHTS FLASH. THUNDER. WALT cowers. LIGHTS COME UP and WALT continues STAGE RIGHT with rampion. To audience.)* You know, that was pretty terrifying. But I don't think she meant it. Well, I can't worry about that now. *(He moves STAGE RIGHT.)* Rene! Mrs. Shwartzbuckle! Wife! Hello! I got it!

RENE: *(Races ON STAGE RIGHT. She is very excited.)* Husband, husband, Walty-poo, did you get it?

WALT: Yes, my love. Here it is.

RENE: I love it! I love you. I'll go eat it right now. *(RENE takes rampion, and starts to EXIT STAGE RIGHT.)*

WALT: Just one minute, my little cupcake.

RENE: What?

WALT: I tried to pay for it, but the witch wouldn't take any money.

RENE: Really?

WALT: And she said that we could have as much as we wanted for the rest of our lives.

RENE: *(Jumping up and down.)* Goody, goody! Oh, Walty, Walty, Walty! You make me so happy! *(She starts to EXIT STAGE RIGHT.)*

WALT: Wait! There's a little catch.

RENE: What do you mean?

WALT: She said we could have all we want, free of charge, but... but...

RENE: But what?

WALT: We have to give her our first-born daughter when she reaches the age of 16.

RENE: What?

WALT: I had to say okay, or they would have smooshed me.

RENE: We don't even have a daughter!

WALT: I know.

RENE: Then it's okay. Besides, 16 years is a long time. Nobody will even remember. (*RENE skips toward STAGE RIGHT.*) In the meantime we'll have all the rampion we could ever dream of. Oh, joy and rapture. I will never faint and drool again. (*She EXITS STAGE RIGHT.*)

WALT: (*To audience.*) Why do I feel something awful is going to happen? Oh, well. Guess we're having rampion for dinner. And no faint or drool in sight. That's the best part. Hey, see you later. I think the plot is developing. (*BLACKOUT.*)

End of Scene One

Scene Two

TIME: 18 years later.

PLACE: The castle of KING and QUEEN FURADAY.

LIGHTS UP: KING and QUEEN ENTER from HOUSE, UP AISLE CENTER, and onto apron. They wave, shake hands with subjects in the audience. They are your basic, run-of-the-mill royalty, gracious, regal, if a bit cuckoo. Their three sons, BUMPUS, MARKIE and LEWELLYN, ENTER from STAGE LEFT and engage in their various activities. BUMPUS and MARKIE move STAGE RIGHT; LEW seats himself on LEFT side of apron. BUMPUS is quite handsome and is a body builder. He works out with a barbell weighing "1000 lbs." MARKIE is the financial genius. He carries papers, a pen and a cellular phone, and his pockets bulge with money. LEWELLYN is the nerd of the group and also the brightest. He sits on the edge of the stage, working on his latest scientific project, growing hair on an egg. He wears huge glasses and is the picture of concentration. MUSIC CUE 3: "The Royal Family." As the KING and QUEEN approach the apron, QUEEN crosses to BUMPUS and MARKIE STAGE RIGHT and hugs them. LEW stands, ready to greet his mother, but she ignores him. LEW tries to get her attention to no avail.

ROYAL FAMILY: (*Sings.*) We are the royal family.

A very loving clan you see,
Related to the heads of state
In kingdoms far and near.
We are the royal family,
Society's anomaly,
We're bonded by a bloodline
Getting thicker by the year.

KING: (*Sings.*) My wife's also my aunt.
Sister to Father's seventh bride,

Which makes our sons her nephews
And my cousins on her side.

QUEEN: (*Sings.*) To some it seems confusing
But it's done to simplify.
It cuts in half the shopping
For the gifts we all must buy.
(*Speaks to BUMPUS.*) So, Bumpus, what did you give your handsome
cousin for his birthday?

BUMPUS: (*Speaks.*) Well, I bought him, who is actually me, this beautiful
tie. Don't you just love it, Auntie Mum?

ROYAL FAMILY: (*Sings.*) We are the royal family.
We're passing down our lunacy.
With every generation growing
Stranger than the last.
We are the royal family,
A legacy of oddity.
With each idiosyncrasy
Our weirdness unsurpassed.

BUMPUS: (*Sings.*) There's Uncle Duke Outlandish,
Loves to gamble, truth or dare,
He's always losing, now he's
Ruling in his underwear.

MARKIE: (*Sings.*) And then there's Cousin Dipsy,
Baroness of County Loon,
She loves her hound so
She's been found, low, howling at the moon. (*On hands and knees,
howls like a dog.*)

KING: (*Sings.*) We're born outrageous,

QUEEN: (*Sings.*) It's contagious,

KING/QUEEN: (*Sing.*) Screwy through and through.

BUMPUS: (*Sings.*) We're all frenetic,

MARKIE: (*Sings.*) It's genetic,

ROYAL FAMILY: (*Sings.*) It's what we nobility do.
We are the royal family.
We've carved our niche in history.
The most bizarre gentility
To ever take the throne.
We are the royal family

With one unanswered mystery—
How do we keep our crowns
When we're all crazy to the bone?

KING: *(At end of song, QUEEN stands next to BUMPUS and MARKIE, chattering happily. LEW sits with his project on the left side of the apron. To audience.)* Hello, I'm King Zeek Furaday, and I want to welcome you to... *(Annoyed by QUEEN'S chatter.)* Just a minute. *(Snaps his fingers, and the action freezes.)* I'm always amazed at how well that works. Let's see, where was I... oh, right, I'm King Furaday. No, not just for a day. "Furaday," that's my name. You can call me King. Well, 18 years have passed since Walt Shwartzbuckle stole into Witch Izwitch's rampion garden. Doesn't time pass quickly when you're having fun? My wife, Petunia, and I have been ruling the Kingdom of Ain't for a long time now. Actually it should be Isn't, but, let's not go into that right now. Petunia and I have some fine sons, Bumpus and Markie... oh, and Llewellyn... Lew for short. Now, Bumpus and Markie will amount to something. Llewellyn, well, let's just say that he's a plank short of a floor. *(Snaps his fingers, the action resumes. KING turns and crosses STAGE RIGHT to QUEEN, BUMPUS and MARKIE.)* Well, well, well, looks like you boys are busy today!

BUMPUS: *(All the time lifting his barbell.)* Right, Pops, got to get in shape for the Mr. Universe contest.

QUEEN: Oh, Bumpus, your muscles positively bulge. *(BUMPUS sets down barbell and poses. In fact, BUMPUS is always posing, no matter what he does.)*

KING: Lookin' good, son. *(BUMPUS goes back to pumping iron.)*

MARKIE: *(Speaks into cellular phone, writes down figures.)* Right! No, 76,000 shares! Buy, buy, buy!

QUEEN: Markie is in the middle of a very big deal.

KING: What's up?

QUEEN: He's just cornered the market on aglets.

KING: Aglets? What the devil are aglets?

QUEEN: You know, those hard little plastic whatsits on the end of shoelaces. I'm so proud!

KING: Well, I'll be! Makes you stop and think, doesn't it? *(A moment of silence as all freeze, pose, think. Action resumes. To audience.)* So, that's about it. My sons. You'll be seeing more of them.

PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES

ON STAGE, Scene One: Small stool, newspaper entitled “Ain’t It.”

BROUGHT ON, Scene One: Two containers of rampion pushed onstage, paper and pen (WALT).

BROUGHT ON, Scene Two: Barbell labeled “1000 lbs.” (BUMPUS); cellular phone, money, clipboard, paper, pen (MARKIE); glasses, hairy egg (LEW).

BROUGHT ON, Scene Three: Pair of glasses (RAPUNZEL).

ON STAGE, Scene Four: Two thrones.

BROUGHT ON, Scene Four: Picture of Rapunzel (WALT).

ON STAGE, Scene Five: Tower, step ladder.

BROUGHT ON, Scene Five: Glasses, bottle of hair lotion (LEW); glasses, long braids, bucket with rope (RAPUNZEL); huge pair of fake scissors (WITCH); long hair (WITCH, GLUMPWARTS).

THE TOWER

The tower may be constructed of painted flats or cardboard. Appliance cartons, stacked and securely fastened together and anchored to Rapunzel’s platform, are also a possibility.

The tower needn’t be particularly high, and can be made to look higher than it really is by using forced perspective. The platform behind it should be large enough so that Rapunzel can move around without danger of falling. Choir risers or two large tables anchored on top of each other might be used. The tower window should be low enough so that Rapunzel can step over the sill and onto the ladder with ease.

Cardboard silhouettes of trees may also add to the setting.

COSTUMES

The play can be set in any period in history or a combination of many different periods. Some suggestions follow:

KING and QUEEN: crowns and traditional robes over modern dress.

BUMPUS: sweats, princely cape, crown.

MARKIE: business suit, princely cape, crown.

LLEWELLYN: short pants, lab coat, wild tie, princely cape, crown, large glasses.

SAGES: long flowing robes, perhaps with herbs on them.

KNIGHTS: tights, tunics, hoods, swords, regulation “knight” gear.

JESTERS: anything goes, as colorful and crazy as possible.

GLUMPWARTS: These creatures haven’t been seen in a while, but report is they are disgusting. Whatever their costumes, they should have tight fitting hoods that completely conceal hair.

WITCH: Traditional, or wild and wacky. Witch also needs tight fitting hood to conceal hair.

RAPUNZEL: There are three different stages of hair growth. In Scene Three, her braids are about shoulder-length. In the first part of Scene Five, they fall to her waist. After she has applied the hair tonic, her hair falls to the ground. The braids may be made of yarn and attached to a cap. The longest braids need to be easily separated from the cap or from a shorter section of the braid. Velcro would allow the witch to remove the longer portion of the braids as she “cuts” them. When the prince tries to climb the braids, Rapunzel holds the braids tightly, just below their separation point. She also wears large glasses.

STAGING

The scenes at the Shwartzbuckles, the Witch’s Garden and inside the Castle can all be played on the apron if desired. This allows the tower to be hidden behind the grand drape and facilitates quick transitions between locales.



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