

HAPHAZARDLY Ever After

By Jeff Fluharty

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 **Pioneer**
DRAMA SERVICE

HAPHAZARDLY EVER AFTER

BY JEFF FLUHARTY

CAST OF CHARACTERS (In Order of Appearance)

	<i># of lines</i>
FAIRY ONE	enthusiastic; loves being a fairy 24
FAIRY TWO	another; also loves being a fairy 22
RELUCTANT FAIRY.....	not happy about being a fairy 29
NARRATOR.....	dutifully tells the story 48
SERVANT ONE.....	Royal Servant who dreams of a bigger part 17
SERVANT TWO.....	another servant who also dreams of a bigger part 10
KING BARNABAS	kind and noble king 93
QUEEN MILDRED.....	kind and quirky queen 105
PRINCE HAIRGEL.....	thinks he is gorgeous, amazing and wonderful 36
PRINCE SLACKER	thinks being a prince is way too hard 30
PRINCESS PEPPERMINT.....	bratty and not very smart 40
PRINCESS CINNAMON	bratty and mean 55
ROYAL THERAPIST	naïve; thinks she can help the Royal Family 12
DUKE OF CRANBERRY	courts the Princess Cinnamon 2
CRANBERRY'S ASSISTANT	helps the Duke of Cranberry 3
PRINCESS AMBROSIA.....	looking for her prince 5
PRINCE CHOWDER	courts Princess Peppermint 4
ROYAL TEACHER ONE.....	tries to educate the Royal Children 7
ROYAL TEACHER TWO	another 7
STAGE CREW ONE	ends up in the play 2
STAGE CREW TWO	another 2
MAGIC MIRROR.....	magic mirror with pizzazz 13
FAIRY GODMOTHER	top fairy tale contractor in the business 13
MOE.....	head Enchanted Depot employee 23
POE.....	Enchanted Depot employee 20

ROE	another	16
PAIGE	serves the king and queen	20
MYSTERIOUS OLD MAN	planning a fairy tale with a bean stalk	3
WITCH	planning a fairy tale for a princess	5
SORCERER	planning an Arabian fairy tale	5
EDDIE.....	plumber from Hoboken, NJ	9
GENIE.....	claustrophobic and tired of helping	5
PHONE OPERATOR.....	Enchanted Depot phone operator	4
GLITTERBELL	seen as a sparkle of light and heard as a kazoo	7
FAIRY TALE INSPECTOR	enforces fairy tale rules and checks for permits	7

NOTE: See PRODUCTION NOTES for doubling suggestions.

SETTING

An enchanted kingdom, once upon a time.

SET DESCRIPTION

With the exception of one scene, the entire play takes place inside the great room of the Royal Castle. A sofa is CENTER, with the king's throne to the LEFT of the sofa and the queen's throne to the RIGHT. A table with a royal-looking tablecloth is RIGHT. There's a handbell on the table. A backdrop of a castle interior and various other items can be used to help embellish the set as desired.

Enchanted Depot in Scene Six can be created by removing the thrones and placing a piece of wood across the armrests of the sofa. The sofa can then be covered by a large sheet. The table used in the castle can be moved closer to the sofa and used as the checkout counter. Various containers labeled magic, potions, spells etc. should be placed on the sofa and table. A large sign reading "Enchanted Depot" is LEFT.

A chair or stool is DOWN LEFT for the NARRATOR and remains onstage for the entire play.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene One: The Fairies Arrive

Scene Two: The Royal Therapist

Scene Three: The Suitors Arrive

Scene Four: Educating the Children

Scene Five: A Fairy Intervention

Scene Six: Inside Enchanted Depot

Scene Seven: A Fairy Tale Plan

Scene Eight: Magic in Reverse

HAPHAZARDLY EVER AFTER

Scene One

The Fairies Arrive

1 AT RISE: The great room of the Royal Castle. There is a large, fancy *Haphazardly Ever After* script on the NARRATOR'S chair. FAIRY MUSIC plays as FAIRIES ENTER, carrying their ever present wands and wearing small bags of pixie dust. FAIRIES ONE and TWO move
5 about enthusiastically while RELUCTANT FAIRY walks casually and is confused about what is going on. FAIRY ONE throws pixie dust, and FAIRY TWO carries a book of fairy tales.

FAIRY ONE: (*To AUDIENCE.*) Welcome, fellow travelers. We are fairies here to guide you on your journey through this enchanted land.

10 **FAIRY TWO:** It is a mystical land of wonder and merriment. Where we fairies—

RELUCTANT FAIRY: Wait a minute. We're fairies?

FAIRY ONE: Yes, we are ethereal and magical fairies. We prance through the woods, sing at the moon, and—

15 **RELUCTANT FAIRY:** (*Protests.*) I don't want to be a fairy.

FAIRY TWO: (*Annoyed.*) Well, you are a fairy. (*Continues to AUDIENCE.*) The tale we are here to tell is about a king and queen. It is the tale of—

20 **RELUCTANT FAIRY:** As a fairy, does that mean I can fly? I've always wanted to fly. (*Tries to fly unsuccessfully.*)

FAIRY ONE: We are flightless fairies.

RELUCTANT FAIRY: I'm a flightless fairy! So, I'm like an ostrich or a penguin?

FAIRY TWO: Yes.

25 **RELUCTANT FAIRY:** Being fairies, we must have some super powers. (*Mimes.*) Like amazing strength, or the power to read minds, or run incredibly fast.

FAIRY ONE: (*Stern.*) We have the power to tell an enchanted story.

FAIRY TWO: (*Cheery.*) And sometimes cause a little mischief.

30 **RELUCTANT FAIRY:** That's not really as cool as super strength. (*Takes fairy tale book from FAIRY TWO. Flips through book.*) So, are we going to tell one of these stories? There are a lot of great stories in here. Snow White, Beauty and the Beast, Rapunzel. These stories are awesome! (*Points in the book.*) How about Jack and the Beanstalk?
35 Let's do that one. I love the giant in that story. (*Acts like a giant.*) "Fe, fi, fo, fum, I smell the blood of..." (*Looks at OTHER FAIRIES. They disapprove. Giant imitation fades.*) ...someone who's no fun.

1 **FAIRY TWO:** (*Takes the book.*) No, our tale is not in this book, but this book will be in our tale.

RELUCTANT FAIRY: Our “tale is not in this book, but this book is in our tale.” Did you get that line out of a fortune cookie? I’m
5 confused.

FAIRY ONE: Wait and see, for the story is about to begin.

RELUCTANT FAIRY: (*To AUDIENCE.*) It’s about time.

FAIRY TWO: We must do the enchanted fairy tale dance to start the story.

10 **FAIRY ONE:** Yes. We must. (*FAIRIES ONE and TWO start a fairy tale dance.*)

RELUCTANT FAIRY: No, no, no... No enchanted fairy dance. (*OTHER FAIRIES are disappointed.*) And telling the whole story? That sounds like a lot of work. How about we get a narrator? She can tell the
15 story, and we can occasionally interject wit and mischief. Besides, there’s some good food backstage.

FAIRY ONE: What kind of food?

RELUCTANT FAIRY: Grapes, crackers, fancy cheeses.

FAIRY TWO: Do they have Brie cheese?

20 **RELUCTANT FAIRY:** Yes.

FAIRY ONE: This is a fabulous idea.

FAIRY TWO: We’ll get a narrator. (*FAIRIES ONE and TWO run OFF and wheel ON a dolly carrying NARRATOR, who is covered by a large box front that reads “Enchanted Depot.” FAIRIES take NARRATOR off the
25 dolly and remove the box. NARRATOR is FROZEN.*)

FAIRY ONE: With a sprinkle of this magic pixie dust our story will begin. (*Throws pixie dust on the NARRATOR. SOUND EFFECT: MAGIC. NARRATOR comes to life, picks up the script from the chair
DOWN LEFT and sits as FAIRIES EXIT.*)

End of Scene One

Scene Two

The Royal Therapist

30 Inside the Royal Castle.

NARRATOR: (*To AUDIENCE.*) Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there lived a benevolent king and queen.

SERVANT ONE: (*ENTERS with SERVANT TWO, who always carries a horn.*) I present to you King Barnabas.

35 **SERVANT TWO:** And Queen Mildred. (*Blows horn. KING and QUEEN ENTER. SERVANTS EXIT.*)

1 **NARRATOR:** King Barnabas and Queen Mildred were kind,
compassionate and very much in love. (*KING and QUEEN gaze
lovingly at each other.*) There was peace and happiness in the
kingdom, and the king and queen enjoyed their lives together.
5 They especially enjoyed simple, quiet pleasures such as trimming
bonsai trees and working on jigsaw puzzles. (*KING and QUEEN
sit on their thrones. SERVANT ONE ENTERS with a bonsai tree and
clippers. SERVANT TWO ENTERS with a tray with puzzle pieces on it.
SERVANTS hold items while QUEEN trims the bonsai tree and KING
10 works on the puzzle.*)

KING: Your bonsai tree is looking divine, my dear.

QUEEN: Thank you, darling. And it looks like you are making fine
progress on that jigsaw puzzle.

KING: (*Places piece in puzzle. Excited.*) I got another puzzle piece in.

15 **QUEEN:** Nice work. (*SERVANTS EXIT with items.*)

NARRATOR: King Barnabas and Queen Mildred ruled with grace and
dignity, and their Royal Subjects adored them. (*KING and QUEEN
walk DOWNSTAGE and wave to the AUDIENCE as if they are their
Royal Subjects. SOUND EFFECT: CROWD CHEERING.*)

20 **KING:** It is a wonderful kingdom.

QUEEN: Yes, it is. (*KING and QUEEN return to their thrones.*)

NARRATOR: (*To AUDIENCE.*) And it was a wonderful kingdom. However,
there was one big problem. Actually, there were four big problems.
The king and queen had children. Two princesses and two princes,
25 and I must say that their children did not live up to their royal titles.

PRINCE HAIRGEL: (*SOUND EFFECT: GLASS BREAKING. APPEARS
LEFT, backing PRINCE SLACKER ON, poking him in the chest with
each word.*) Get out of my room! (*KING and QUEEN do not see them
as this is in another part of the castle.*)

30 **PRINCE SLACKER:** It's not my fault. You did it. I'm telling!

PRINCE HAIRGEL: Just stop touching my stuff!

PRINCE SLACKER: You are so obnoxious! (*EXITS LEFT with PRINCE
HAIRGEL.*)

KING: It sounds like the children are at it again.

35 **QUEEN:** It sounds like we live in the Royal Zoo.

PRINCESS PEPPERMINT: (*ENTERS LEFT with PRINCESS CINNAMON
pulling her hair, again unseen by KING and QUEEN.*) Ouch! That's
my hair.

PRINCESS CINNAMON: You could have fooled me. It looks like a
40 bird's nest. Ever heard of bathing? (*Kicks PRINCESS PEPPERMINT
on the shin.*)

- 1 **PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** Hey, don't kick me! (*Grabs PRINCESS CINNAMON'S nose.*)
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** Ahhh! Let go of my nose! (*EXITS LEFT with PRINCESS PEPPERMINT.*)
- 5 **NARRATOR:** (*To AUDIENCE.*) Out of desperation and the desire to have a happy family, King Barnabas and Queen Mildred called in another Royal Therapist. (*Peers over glasses. To AUDIENCE.*) Yes, you heard me correctly, I said another Royal Therapist.
- QUEEN:** (*KING and QUEEN move DOWN CENTER.*) I sure hope this Royal
- 10 Therapist can help. The children have simply been unbearable.
- KING:** Yes, dear. I hope this one is better than the last three. (*Rubs his chin.*) I'm still not sure what happened to the other Royal Therapists. They never came back after their first sessions.
- QUEEN:** They probably ran to a place far, far away from our four little
- 15 monsters. (*SERVANTS ENTER.*)
- SERVANT TWO:** Your majesties, the new Royal Therapist is here.
- KING:** Oh, good, please send her in.
- SERVANT ONE:** I present to you the Royal Therapist. (*SERVANT TWO blows horn, and ROYAL THERAPIST ENTERS.*)
- 20 **QUEEN:** Thank you for coming.
- ROYAL THERAPIST:** Your majesties. (*Bows.*) I am here to serve you. What is the problem, and how may I help?
- QUEEN:** It's the children. They're just... Well they... I mean... They're so... Ahhh.
- 25 **KING:** (*Puts hand on QUEEN'S back to comfort her.*) I'll just send for them. Royal Servants, please fetch the children.
- SERVANT ONE:** Yes, your majesty.
- SERVANT TWO:** I'll get the Royal Cattle Prod if necessary. (*SERVANTS EXIT. SOUND EFFECT: CRASH.*)
- 30 **ROYAL THERAPIST:** (*Concerned.*) What was that?
- KING:** (*As if it happens all the time.*) It's the children.
- ROYAL THERAPIST:** Oh, my. (*SOUND EFFECT: CRASH. SERVANTS ENTER. They look frazzled as each of the CHILDREN ENTER annoyed, whining to them.*)
- 35 **PRINCESS CINNAMON:** (*ENTERS.*) I'm hurrying! Just get off my case already.
- PRINCE HAIRGEL:** (*ENTERS.*) You don't have to be so bossy.
- PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** (*ENTERS.*) Yah, what's with the whole (*Air quotes.*) Royal-Servant-I'm-so-cool attitude?
- 40 **PRINCE SLACKER:** (*ENTERS.*) I was totally going to take a Royal Nap, and now you're making us do stuff.

1 **SERVANT ONE:** I present to you, the Royal Children. (*SERVANT TWO starts to blow horn, but PRINCESS CINNAMON stuffs her hand in the horn, cutting it off. CHILDREN stand together. They all have attitude and are disrespectful. PRINCE HAIRGEL looks at himself*
5 *in a hand mirror and perfects his hair. PRINCE SLACKER plays on his smartphone. PRINCESS PEPPERMINT smacks gum and pokes PRINCE SLACKER in the ear to annoy him. SERVANTS EXIT.*)

QUEEN: Children, this is the new Royal Therapist. (*CHILDREN give the ROYAL THERAPIST fake smiles. They roll their eyes as soon as she*
10 *starts to speak.*)

ROYAL THERAPIST: It's a pleasure to meet you. I look forward to our journey of self-discovery together. (*Extends a hand to CHILDREN, but none reciprocates. Awkward pause.*)

PRINCESS CINNAMON: Whatever.

15 **QUEEN:** Please behave for this nice therapist. (*Holds out her hand to PRINCESS PEPPERMINT and glares at her until she takes out her gum.*) Now sit, children. (*Points to sofa.*)

PRINCESS CINNAMON: (*Bratty.*) Yes, Mother. (*Sits.*)

PRINCESS PEPPERMINT: (*Fingers crossed behind her back.*) We will
20 behave. (*Sits.*)

PRINCE HAIRGEL: (*Condescending.*) Just like we always do. (*Sits.*)

QUEEN: That's what I'm afraid of. (*Looks disapprovingly at PRINCE SLACKER on his smartphone. Finally snaps her fingers and gets his attention.*)

25 **PRINCE SLACKER:** What? Oh. (*QUEEN firmly points again. He sits.*)

QUEEN: (*To ROYAL THERAPIST.*) They're all yours. Good luck.

KING: Yes, my brave soul, good luck.

ROYAL THERAPIST: (*Speaks to KING and QUEEN as they EXIT.*) Thank you, but I'm a trained professional, I don't need... (*Sees CHILDREN fighting with pillows and climbing on the furniture.*) ...good luck. (*Worried she is losing control.*) Your Majesties, please control yourselves. You must stop. Please... (*Whistles loudly. ALL stop.*) Everyone, please sit back down. (*ALL sit, but still have attitude.*) Now this is my first session with you—

35 **PRINCESS CINNAMON:** That's because I had the last three Royal Therapists fed to the Royal Dragon. And from the looks of you, I think the dragon will be getting a meal pretty quickly. (*SOUND EFFECT: DRAGON ROAR.*)

PRINCE SLACKER: Yeah, I'm totally going to tell Mom that you did
40 that.

1 **PRINCESS CINNAMON:** If you do, I'll tell Dad that you totally took out the Royal Carriage without asking, crashed it and blamed it on the Duke of Beef Wellington. (*PRINCE SLACKER and PRINCESS CINNAMON stand to fight. ROYAL THERAPIST interjects.*)

5 **ROYAL THERAPIST:** Please stop. Since we've just met, I would like to get to know everyone and hopefully not get fed to the Royal Dragon or any other Royal Beast. So let's go around and calmly introduce ourselves and say why we are unhappy. (*CHILDREN all stand to go first.*)

PRINCESS CINNAMON: (*Obnoxiously asserts herself. OTHER CHILDREN are annoyed and sit.*) I'm the radiant Princess Cinnamon, and I'm unhappy because there isn't anyone worthy of marrying me. I mean, yesterday two suitors came to woo me. It was more of a boo than a woo. The first one owned only three castles, and two were on the west side of the kingdom. What a joke. I'm a princess. Do you expect me to live in just three castles? I think not. I could name at least a dozen princesses who have more than four castles, and they aren't half as beautiful as me. Oh, and the second suitor, I sent him packing when he gave me this measly little diamond. (*Takes out an enormous diamond ring and places it on her finger. She struggles to hold up her hand to show it.*) A princess has to have her standards. I guess I'll just use this as a paperweight or maybe a doorstopper. (*Puts ring away. Sits.*)

20 **ROYAL THERAPIST:** Thank you, Princess Cinnamon. (*Looks at PRINCESS PEPPERMINT.*) Princess, would you like to go next and follow your sister?

PRINCESS PEPPERMINT: (*Stands. Upset.*) Of course I have to go after her. Well, just so you know, I'm Princess Peppermint. My sister, Princess Cinnamon is always first, and me, the beautiful-er, the smarter-est and the best-est princess always has to go second. (*Motions toward PRINCESS CINNAMON.*) Cinnamon's such a show-off (*Mocks PRINCESS CINNAMON.*) with her hair and her eyelashes and the way she walks and stuff. She's always saying that I'm dumb, but it's not true. It's just that I'm not smart, so there. It's so infli-er-ating. I mean, having her for a sister is enough to ruin anyone's happiness. Like, what kind of name is Princess Cinnamon anyways?

PRINCESS CINNAMON: (*Stands.*) It's better than Princess Peppermint, you goofy, babbling candy cane.

40 **PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** Well, why don't you just sit your Princess Cinnamon buns down and be quiet!

ROYAL THERAPIST: (*Keeps the peace.*) Let's just give one of your brothers a turn. (*PRINCESSES sit. To PRINCE HAIRGEL.*) How about you, fine prince?

- 1 **PRINCE HAIRGEL:** *(Stands. To ROYAL THERAPIST.)* I don't introduce myself. *(Claps twice. SERVANTS ENTER.)*
- SERVANT ONE:** I present to you, *(Pronounces his name as "Prince Hair Gel.")* Prince Hairgel. *(SERVANT TWO plays horn.)*
- 5 **PRINCE HAIRGEL:** How many times do I have to tell you it's pronounced Har-gle. The "l" is silent. Har-gle! Please get it right.
- SERVANT ONE:** Sorry, sir. I present to you, *(Over-pronounces.)* Prince Har-gle. *(SERVANT TWO plays horn. SERVANTS EXIT.)*
- PRINCE HAIRGEL:** Yes, I am the dashing and spectacularly handsome
10 Prince Hairgel. My unhappiness is caused by all the jealousy I have to endure because I am just so amazingly good-looking.
- PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** *(Stands.)* Do we really have to, like, listen to this?
- PRINCE HAIRGEL:** I mean, to be a prince and to have a face and
15 physique that could have been chiseled by an angel. Well, it's just too much for some people to take. And I haven't even mentioned my hair. *(Gives a model-style toss of his head then poses for the AUDIENCE with a smile.)* Wow.
- PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** Are you finished yet?
- 20 **PRINCE HAIRGEL:** You just don't understand what it's like to be good looking. *(Looks at his sister. Critical.)* No, you really don't understand.
- PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** Why you pom-ponous, air-gon-ate fool! *(Steps closer to PRINCE HAIRGEL.)*
- 25 **PRINCE HAIRGEL:** Exactly what language do you speak?
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** *(To the ROYAL THERAPIST.)* The dragon is getting hungry. *(SOUND EFFECT: DRAGON ROAR.)*
- ROYAL THERAPIST:** Okay, let's all just take a deep breath, and let your other brother speak. *(PRINCE HAIRGEL and PRINCESS PEPPERMINT sit. ALL look at PRINCE SLACKER, who is asleep and snoring.)*
- 30 **PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** Prince Slacker, wake up! *(Pulls pillow from under his head.)*
- PRINCE SLACKER:** *(Wakes up. Drowsy.)* What? *(Stands.)* Wait, what time is it? Is it lunchtime yet? I'll just have a Royal Large Pizza with everything on it. *(Looks around.)* Oh, it's my turn. Uh, being a
35 prince is just way, way, way too much work. *(Takes back the pillow, gets comfortable and goes back to sleep.)*
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** *(Stands.)* Why are you so lazy? It's so embarrassing.
- 40 **PRINCE HAIRGEL:** *(Stands.)* Well, at least he's not mean, like you.
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** Who are you calling mean?! *(Makes a fist to punch him.)*

- 1 **PRINCE HAIRGEL:** Watch the hair. And the nose. And especially the teeth. (*Vain smile.*)
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** Why, I ought to... Ah. (*Frustrated, she crosses toward the sofa, but PRINCESS PEPPERMINT sticks out her foot and trips her.*)
- 5 **PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** (*Stands.*) Oops, it looks like you tripped and fell on your Princess Cinnamon buns.
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** (*Stands.*) You already used that joke. (*PRINCESSES face off.*)
- 10 **PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** Well, it's funny. (*Growls.*) Grrr.
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** No, it's not. (*Growls.*) Grrr.
- ROYAL THERAPIST:** (*Moves between PRINCESSES.*) Let's just take a time out and try to explore what we are all feeling right now.
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** (*PRINCESSES walk away from each other. PRINCESS PEPPERMINT sticks out her tongue and makes a face at PRINCESS CINNAMON.*) You asked for it! (*Lunges at PRINCESS PEPPERMINT, who grabs PRINCE SLACKER to use as a shield. CHILDREN fight and eventually end up behind the sofa and mostly out of AUDIENCE'S view.*)
- 15 **ROYAL THERAPIST:** (*Pleads.*) Please stop. Please! (*Crosses behind sofa and is pulled into the fighting.*) Ahhh. (*CHILDREN hold up comic book style signs reading "Wham!" "Pow!" and "Bang!" SOUND EFFECTS: WHAM, POW, BANG to accompany signs.*)
- NARRATOR:** (*To AUDIENCE.*) Sadly, this continued for hours. There was arguing. (*PRINCESS CINNAMON and PRINCE HAIRGEL stand. Both hold a hairbrush and pull it back-and-forth as they argue.*)
- 25 **PRINCESS CINNAMON:** That's my hairbrush!
- PRINCE HAIRGEL:** No, it's mine!
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** I had it first!
- 30 **PRINCE HAIRGEL:** Well, I have it now! (*Pulls the hairbrush free and makes a face at PRINCESS CINNAMON.*)
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** Grr! (*Lunges at PRINCE HAIRGEL. Both fall behind the sofa.*)
- NARRATOR:** There was whining.
- 35 **PRINCE SLACKER:** (*Stands and whines.*) Why, why, why am I in this family? Why? Why... (*PRINCESS CINNAMON stands and pulls PRINCE SLACKER down behind the sofa.*)
- NARRATOR:** And there was fighting. (*PRINCESS PEPPERMINT and PRINCESS CINNAMON stand and box.*)
- 40 **PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** I'm prettier!
- PRINCESS CINNAMON:** No, I'm prettier!

1 **PRINCESS PEPPERMINT:** I am!

PRINCESS CINNAMON: I am! (*PRINCESS CINNAMON and PRINCESS PEPPERMINT drop behind the sofa.*)

5 **NARRATOR:** Eventually the king and queen came to check on the Royal Therapist. (*CHILDREN EXIT RIGHT as KING and QUEEN ENTER LEFT.*)

QUEEN: Excuse me, Royal Therapist. We've come to check on your progress. (*Hears struggling behind the sofa and looks. Shocked.*) Oh, my! Barnabas, come quickly!

10 **KING:** (*Joins QUEEN.*) What have the children done? (*KING and QUEEN help ROYAL THERAPIST to her feet. She is tied up with a large rope and a handkerchief covers her mouth. KING and QUEEN help ROYAL THERAPIST hop to the front of the sofa and fall onto it. Mortified, KING and QUEEN quickly untie her.*)

15 **ROYAL THERAPIST:** (*Stands, very disturbed and shaking.*) Your children, they're evil. No, they're worse than evil. They're, they're... Oh, please don't feed me to the Royal Dragon! No, I'd rather be fed to the dragon than have to be in the same room with your children again. Ah! (*Runs OFF screaming.*)

20 **QUEEN:** Dragon?

KING: What was she talking about?

QUEEN/KING: Princess Cinnamon.

KING: (*Rubs chin.*) So that's what happened to the other therapists.

QUEEN: What are we going to do?

25 **KING:** I don't know, my dear. I don't know. (*They EXIT.*)

End of Scene Two

Scene Three

The Suitors Arrive

Inside the Royal Castle. A hairbrush and hand mirror are on the table along with the handbell.

30 **NARRATOR:** Over the next few months, the king and queen tried many things to make their children happy and hopefully bring some peace to the Royal Family. Their first idea was to marry off their children. (*KING, QUEEN and CHILDREN ENTER. PRINCE HAIRGEL has a bouquet of flowers. PRINCE SLACKER carries his smartphone. The four CHILDREN sit.*)

35 **QUEEN:** Your father and I have arranged for several worthy suitors to come meet you. Each one of them has been hand-picked and would make a wonderful spouse.

KING: (*To the QUEEN.*) I hope this works.

PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES ONSTAGE

Royal Castle set: Sofa with pillows, two thrones, table with royal-looking tablecloth, handbell, chair or stool for narrator with large, fancy *Haphazardly Ever After* script on it.

Scene Two: Royal castle set. Hairbrush, rope, handkerchief, signs reading “Wham,” “Pow” and “Bang” hidden behind sofa.

Scene Three: Royal castle set. Hairbrush and mirror on table.

Scene Four: Royal castle set.

Scene Five: Royal castle set. Fly swatters and bug spray under sofa, tray of cookies, purple paper and pencil on table.

Scene Six: Enchanted Depot set: Piece of wood across couch armrests covered with a sheet, bag of magic beans, basket of red and green apples, pumpkins, large bag of pixie dust, magic carpet, large bag with four potion bottles in it (blue, red, green, gold), various jars, bags and boxes marked spells, potions, magic, etc.

Scene Seven: Royal castle set. Fairy tale book, frog costume items behind couch, rolled up parchment, tray of cookies on table.

Scene Eight: Royal castle set. Tray of cookies.

PROPERTIES BROUGHT ON

Scene One:

Fairy tale book (FAIRY TWO)

Dolly (FAIRIES ONE and TWO)

Enchanted Depot box front (NARRATOR)

Scene Two:

Tray with jigsaw puzzle pieces (SERVANT TWO)

Bonsai tree, clippers (SERVANT ONE)

Hand mirror (PRINCE HAIRGEL)

Smartphone (PRINCE SLACKER)

Gum (PRINCESS PEPPERMINT)

Extremely large diamond ring (PRINCESS CINNAMON)

Scene Three:

Bouquet of flowers (PRINCE HAIRGEL)

Smartphone (PRINCE SLACKER)

Large bags of gold and jewels (CRANBERRY’S ASSISTANT)

Scene Four:

Shields (TEACHER TWO, PRINCE HAIRGEL, PRINCE SLACKER)

Tray, teapot, teacups (SERVANT ONE)

Scene Five:

Bonsai tree, clippers, spray bottle, cloth (SERVANT ONE)
Tray with puzzle pieces (SERVANT TWO)
Dress, flowerpot, torn teddy bear (PRINCESS CINNAMON)
Torn dress (PRINCESS PEPPERMINT)
Fairy tale book (FAIRY TWO)
Notepad, pencil (RELUCTANT FAIRY)
Smartphone, bag of chips, TV remote (PRINCE SLACKER)
Handbag with abacus, notepad, pencil (FAIRY GODMOTHER)
Comb (PRINCE HAIRGEL)
Paper airplane (ROE)
Hobbyhorse, satchel (SERVANTS)

Scene Six:

Three brooms, genie lamp (POE)
Fishing net with handle, enchanted paper airplanes (ROE)
Several gold coins (MYSTERIOUS OLD MAN)
Enchanted paper airplanes (Thrown on stage by stage crew)
Coupons, coin (WITCH)
Genie lamp, receipt (SORCERER)
Hobbyhorse, coins (PAIGE)

Scene Seven:

Damaged golf club, golf ball on crown (KING)
Bag containing four potion bottles (blue, red, green, gold), genie
lamp, sheaf of paper, hobbyhorse (PAIGE)
Smartphone (PRINCE SLACKER)
Extremely long wig (PRINCE HAIRGEL)

Scene Eight:

Small bag with light in it (ROE)
“Charges” notebook (FAIRY TALE INSPECTOR)
Hair gel container (PRINCE HAIRGEL)
Large notepad with diagrams and mathematical formulas, pencil,
graduation cap, diploma (PRINCESS PEPPERMINT)
Bonsai tree, clippers (SERVANT ONE)
Tray with puzzle pieces (SERVANT TWO)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS

Fairy music, magic, crowd cheering, glass breaking, crash, dragon roar, “Wham! Pow! Bang!” noises, heroic music, rim shot, horse clip-clops, store doorbell, dance music, phone ringing, runway model music, graduation music, wedding music. A kazoo is also needed for all of GLITTERBELL’S lines.

For the fairy music when FAIRIES ONE and TWO first enter, one suggestion is to use a clip of the harps in the opening from the

Nutcracker Ballet. (public domain). Pioneer Drama Service also sells a CD of royalty-free music specific to the fairy tale/fantasy genre.

A magical sound effect is suggested whenever the fairies throw pixie dust, when Fairy Godmother enters and when Glitterbell appears. Ideally, distinct sounds will be used for each. (Pioneer Drama's CD of royalty-free fairy tale music also includes many sound effects, including trumpet fanfares and three different magic sound effects.)

GLITTERBELL

GLITTERBELL is portrayed as a spot of light. This can be done by using a follow spot, a laser pointer or a strong flashlight. The light should be projected on the backdrop and the actors should track the spot of light and react to it. In Scene Eight, a small light can be placed in the bag that ROE carries. When GLITTERBELL enters the bag, ROE can turn on the light to help create the illusion that the fairy is in the bag.

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

FAIRIES: Colorful and bright fairy attire such as tutus or tunics with belts and tights. Each carries a wand and a bag of pixie dust.

NARRATOR: Contemporary, professional clothing, reading glasses.

KING and QUEEN: Traditional royal robes or capes, crowns.

SERVANTS: Option 1—chain mail or tunics with a royal symbol and a belt. Option 2—fairy tale/Renaissance style servant dress. Wigs for “hair gel” part in Scene Eight. **SERVANT TWO** always carries a trumpet or horn.

PAIGE: Simple fairy tale/Renaissance style dress or tunic.

ROYAL THERAPIST, ROYAL TEACHERS: fairy tale/Renaissance style dresses or tunics with belts.

PRINCESS PEPPERMINT: Red and white fairy tale princess dress, tiara. Frog hat, costume or puppet for Scene Seven. (See **PRODUCTION NOTE** above.) Graduation gown for Scene Eight.

PRINCESS CINNAMON: Brown or rust fairy tale princess dress, tiara.

PRINCE HAIRGEL: Fancy tunic with royal symbol, belt, sash adorned with metals, cape and/or crown. He is meticulously dressed to go with his vain personality. Wig with extremely long, blonde hair for Scene Seven.

PRINCE SLACKER: Fancy tunic with royal symbol on it, belt, tie-dyed sash, cape and/or crown. His attire reflects his carefree, lazy attitude.

DUKE OF CRANBERRY and PRINCE CHOWDER: Fancy tunics, belts, sashes, capes, crown for the prince.

CRANBERRY'S ASSISTANT: Simple tunic.

PRINCESS AMBROSIA: Fairy tale princess dress.

STAGE CREW: All backstage black or possibly shirts with play logo.

MAGIC MIRROR: Wears dark colors and holds a large frame made out of cardboard in front of head and upper body. The frame has a solid center covered by tinfoil with a cutout for Magic Mirror's head. Fabric or rope handles can be attached to the back.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Fairy godmother dress, magic wand, crown, tiara or fairy godmother style hat.

MOE, POE, ROE, PHONE OPERATOR: Matching Enchanted Depot purple and white tunics or work aprons. Phone operator also has a headset.

WITCH: Black evil-looking dress, witch's hat.

MYSTERIOUS OLD MAN: Earth tone or plain colored tunic, sash, beard, cane or walking stick.

SORCERER: Dark, mysterious-looking flowing clothing, sorcerer's hat and/or cape.

GENIE: Harem pants, blouse with flowing sleeves, scarves, jewelry.

EDDIE: Jeans, blue work shirt with "Eddie's Plumbing" on it.

FAIRY TALE INSPECTOR: Serious-looking, dark colored fairy tale clothing, cape.

GENDER FLEXIBLE CASTING

The roles of the Royal Family, Witch, Duke of Cranberry, Fairy Godmother, Genie, Princess Ambrosia, Prince Chowder and Eddie are gender specific.

The remainder of the cast may be played male or female as needed. Some of the roles, such as the ROYAL SERVANTS, are written specifically male or female, but may be changed to suit your particular casting needs with simple pronoun changes.

FAIRY ONE and FAIRY TWO are also written as female, with RELUCTANT FAIRY being male. If RELUCTANT FAIRY is female, replace the note written and read by the narrator in Scene Five with the following lines:

"Then suddenly a magical and not very feminine fairy entered our story." (*RELUCTANT FAIRY crosses to castle, proud and brave.*) "I mean, this was an incredibly strong, Amazon-like fairy. This fairy was like a cross between a professional roller derby player and a United States Marine. This brave and heroic fairy stealthily maneuvered through the castle. Her top-secret mission was to place the crucial fairy tale book next to the queen without being detected."

FLEXIBLE CAST SIZE

Other than the Royal Family, the servants and the narrator, most roles only appear in a limited number of scenes, thus allowing for significant doubling. *Haphazardly Ever After* can be produced with a cast as small as 19 with the following doubling:

(Either) NARRATOR
(Male) KING BARNABAS
(Female) QUEEN MILDRED
(Female) PRINCESS PEPPERMINT
(Female) PRINCESS CINNAMON
(Male) PRINCE HAIRGEL
(Male) PRINCE SLACKER
(Female) ENTHUSIASTIC FAIRY #1, GLITTERBELL
(Female) ENTHUSIASTIC FAIRY #2, WITCH
(Male) RELUCTANT FAIRY, DUKE OF CRANBERRY
(Either) ROYAL SERVANT #1
(Either) ROYAL SERVANT #2
(Female) ROYAL THERAPIST, FAIRY GODMOTHER, GENIE
(Female) PRINCESS AMBROSIA, A PAGE NAMED PAIGE
(Male) PRINCE CHOWDER, SORCERER, EDDIE
(Male) ROYAL TEACHER #2, FAIRY TALE INSPECTOR, MYSTERIOUS OLD MAN
(Either) MOE, CRANBERRY'S ASSISTANT, STAGE CREW #2
(Either) POE, MAGIC MIRROR, STAGE CREW #1
(Either) ROE, ROYAL TEACHER #1, PHONE OPERATOR

Of course, a cast of any size between 19 and 35 is possible by following only some of these doubling suggestions. For a breakdown of characters by scene, consult the Director's Book.

PRINCESS PEPPERMINT TURNING INTO A FROG

In Scene Seven, PRINCESS PEPPERMINT turns into a frog. This can be done several ways. The simplest way is to have PRINCESS PEPPERMINT physically act like a frog with no costume change. Another option is to have a frog hat, mask, puppet or simple costume hidden behind the sofa. When PRINCESS PEPPERMINT goes behind the sofa she then emerges as a frog.

We hope you've enjoyed this script sample.

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