

An Except from The Little Match Girl from ACT I scene 1

Previously BILLY, the Comic Lead has introduced himself to and made friends with the audience! GRESLEY is a 'stone gargoyle' above the church door way. ANGELICA (Fairy Godmother) disguised as an elderly lady almost hidden in her warm cloak is sitting on a bench observing the proceedings. BEN (Principal Boy) has entered and chatted with BILLY until MOLLY (Principal Girl) enters and now...

BILLY: Ben's been waiting for you.

BEN: I was worried about you.

MOLLY: Uncle Silas made me clean all the carpets before coming out. (*Sits with BILLY and BEN on bench by church door*) I haven't even had time for breakfast. I'm so hungry!

BILLY: (*Pauses with bun in mouth*) Oh!

BEN: Well, you're in luck I have a spare bun. Here take it!

BILLY: But you said you were hungry-

BEN: It's okay, I want you to have it Molly.

MOLLY: Thank you Ben, if you're sure.

BEN: Of course, I am sure! Your uncle shouldn't be treating you as his servant.

MOLLY: I know but he wants everything to look spick and span because he is expecting a visitor... maybe a friend?

BILLY: He hasn't got any friends!

BILLY: If only your father had left a will then you wouldn't have to put up with your rotten old Uncle Silas Slybones coming back here. It isn't fair!

GRESLEY: Life isn't fair! Some days you are the pigeon and some days the statue!

MOLLY: Money isn't everything I suppose!

BILLY: Not when you've got good friends like us!

GRESLEY: People say money is not the key to happiness, but I always figured if you had enough money, you can have a key made!

ANGELICA stares at GRESLEY, nods her head and chuckles out aloud. It is clear only she can hear him!

BEN: (*Looks at ANGELICA quizzically-turns to BILLY and MOLLY*) Did you hear something?

MOLLY: No. It must have been the wind.

BILLY: Don't look at me- **(To audience)** Somebody must have had baked beans for lunch. **(laughs)** Well, I'd better get back to work in the bakery. One day it will all be mine- but not yet! See you later. **Exits into bakery**

BEN: I promised to meet my father when he returned from town. I hope to see you later. Bye Molly. **Exits SL**

MOLLY: Bye then... alone again- that's life eh? **(Angelica is watching closely)**

GRESLEY: **(Depressed)** Don't talk to me about life! **(Pauses)** Nobody talks to me anyway. **(ANGELICA looks at GRESLEY)**

Enter CLARA CUPCAKE and the DOCTOR is carrying her bags from SR

CLARA: I've had a lovely day out, Doctor.

DOCTOR: My pleasure dear Miss Cupcake, my pleasure! Good afternoon Molly.

MOLLY: Good afternoon Doctor Foster! Oh, Ben has just gone to find you but he went that way. **(points SL)**

CLARA: Well we have come this way! **(Enter ENSEMBLE)** Ah, customers! Waiting for me? Hasn't Billy opened up the shop? **(Sees audience)** Oh who are all these people? I've never seen so many people in one place. **(Picks out audience member)** Hello dear, what's your name? You are looking a bit peckish-do you fancy a bun? I have lovely buns! In my bakery! What did you think I meant? Ooh you are naughty! Well, anyway, welcome to our little town. We are friendly townsfolk... well-

ALL: Except for Slybones

CLARA: ...and everyone is welcome.

ALL: Except for Slybones!

CLARA: And how are you young Molly?

MOLLY: I'm fine thank you Miss Cupcake.

CLARA: You need some good food inside you, girl. You should come into Cupcake and Bun.

ALL: Finest bakery under the sun!

CLARA: Your Uncle Slybones isn't treating you right! I doubt you remember him much from when you were a little girl but I always thought he was a bad 'un ...always will be!

DOCTOR: That's true! You've not looked well since he arrived back in town, my dear.

CLARA: Come into my shop, Cupcake and Bun.

ALL: Finest bakery under the sun!

CLARA: Can I tempt you to some or iced buns if you prefer or I'm well known for my dumplings!

DOCTOR: Indeed, you are. You're still a lovely figure of a woman!

GRESLEY: (Aside) She not only kept her lovely figure, she's added to it! She's not so much dressed as upholstered!

ANGELICA *tuts, shakes her head and wags an admonishing finger at Gresley!*

DOCTOR: You are like my little spring chicken!

CLARA: Lovely- just don't ruffle my feathers! Come and sample my bakery delights! Oh, my- would you just look at that! Who is this with your Uncle Slybones, Molly?

Enter SLYBONES(the Villain) and NARCISSA SL followed by BEN who is struggling to carry bags and cases.

MOLLY: I don't know.

NARCISSA: What a dump! I hope the house is better than what I've seen so far! There's far too many trees, and birds and... peasants... Ugh! That's what I think!

GRESLEY: Think? Surprised a thought crossed your mind! Must have been a long... and lonely journey!

ANGELICA *stands up and wags her finger at GRESLEY admonishingly*

ANGELICA: Naughty!

NARCISSA: This place gives me the creeps! **(To BEN)** Be careful with my things! And what are you lot staring at?

SLYBONES: Ladies and gentlemen, tradespersons and peasants let me introduce my fiancée, the lovely Narcissa.

MOLLY: A fiancee? You're getting married?

CLARA: I'd love a wedding- though maybe not this one!

NARCISSA: I suppose that brat is your niece, Molly?

SLYBONES: And I don't know why she is here! Get back to my house girl and start preparing a meal for when I bring Narcissa home.

NARCISSA: Make me fruit and cream for dessert- Lots of it- it's good for my skin!

BEN: Molly's not your servant **(Drops all the cases to the floor)** and neither am I!

ANGELICA nods her head and smiles

DOCTOR: And it's not your house- it's still Molly's!

SLYBONES: Oh no, it isn't!

ALL: Oh yes, it is... etc

SLYBONES: As her guardian, it is now my house and she is under my control. She will do as she is told! I can always throw her out on to the street and then what would she do... sell matches? **(to MOLLY sneering)** After all that's all he left you isn't it? The wood chippings, the slivers of broken dreams...that's all that's left of his furniture business... matches!

NARCISSA: Matches? That's all that's left? I thought you were rich!

SLYBONES: I will be! Stick with me!

MOLLY: My father would never have left me without money!

SLYBONES: Yes, but where is it?

CLARA: That's what we'd all like to know!

NARCISSA: And who are you?

CLARA: I'm Clara Cupcake, of Cupcake and Bun

ALL: Finest bakers under the sun! **(ANGELICA moves forward to look into the Bakery)**

NARCISSA: Cakes? Oh Sly... let's buy! I want one with fruit and cream!

SLYBONES: As you wish! We could even order our wedding cake!

NARCISSA: Oh yes. I want a pink cake!

SLYBONES: Molly, take Narcissa's luggage back to the house. After you Miss Cupcake! Good day Doctor, out of way rabble! Move yourself old woman
(Pushes past ANGELICA making her stumble and they follow CLARA into 'shop' exit. MOLLY and DOCTOR go to help ANGELICA)

DOCTOR: (To Angelica) Are you all right?

MOLLY: You may not know about my uncle- he's not the easiest of men-

ANGELICA: I can see that clearly my dear
Things don't seem well for you, I fear
But I am quite all right, you see
And I'm sure you'll see more of me. **Exits**

MOLLY: I wonder who she is and what a strange thing to say.

DOCTOR: I don't remember seeing her before today.

MOLLY: I'd better go. **(Starts to pick up cases)**

BEN: I'll help you. **(Picks up other cases)**

DOCTOR: Are you going to be all right Molly? Is there anything I can do?

MOLLY: If you could help me find my Father's will, that would be a start.

GRESLEY: Yes, where's there's a will, there's a way!