

EXCERPT from RED RIDING HOOD from ACT II Scene 3

Previously, RUBY, wearing her bright new red cloak has set out on a planned visit to see her GRANDMA. She has been a little delayed by walking and talking with her sweetheart HAL. Meanwhile, the WOLF, who due to unforeseen circumstances, has hidden his winning lottery ticket in a box of chocolates which has now found its way into RUBY's basket as a gift for GRANDMA. The WOLF, in pursuit of the lottery ticket has rushed to the cottage to wait for RUBY to arrive! DAME CHOPPE realizing that RUBY has forgotten to take with her some medicine for GRANDMA, set off to follow her but took a short cut through the woods due to much confusion with the sign posts...

GRANDMA: Is that you, Ruby?

WOLF: (*Disguising voice*) Grandma, oh Grandma! Please help me – let me in I'm hurt.

GRANDMA: Oh dear! My poor child! I guessed something might be wrong. I'm coming, my dear. (*Struggles out of bed*)

WOLF jumps out and GRANDMA faints

WOLF: This is too easy. I'll drag this old biddy into the wardrobe and take her place.

He struggles to drag her across to the cupboard

WOLF: OK, maybe not as easy as I thought! Phew, this stress and exertion better be worth it! (*Pushes Grandma into the cupboard and shuts the door*) I'll put on this cap and robe and get into bed and wait for Ruby. Listen, I think she is coming.

Enter Mrs CHOPPE

MRS CHOPPE: I'm out of breath! Hello Grandma, isn't Ruby here yet?

WOLF: Curses! What is she doing here? This isn't the plan! I must play along until I can get rid of her.

MRS CHOPPE: (*To audience*) I think I've been half-way to 'local Town' and back... and that was no fun! I'm sure someone tampered with the signpost. I gave up trying to follow the paths in the end and cut through

the trees over the hillside and seem to have got here ahead of Ruby. **(To Wolf)** How are you? Oh dear, not very well I see. You are already in bed.

WOLF: (Disguised voice) I really am not feeling well, maybe you shouldn't stay long, and why are you here? Where is Ruby?

MRS CHOPPE: What did you say dear? Yes, Ruby is coming soon. She was supposed to bring that medicine I promised you but she forgot it! So I brought it for you, dear. **(Looks at WOLF)** You don't look well at all. I left home so quickly that I left my glasses behind but even without them, I can see you look somewhat odd. Not to worry, I'll soon have you better. We don't want you poorly for Christmas now do we?

WOLF: Medicine? I'm feeling too weak to sit up. Leave it on the side as you go and I'll have it later.

MRS CHOPPE: You do sound rough! **(Takes large bottle out of bag)** here it is, special recipe. A smidgeon of garlic, a pinch or two of chili powder, a tincture of dandelion root, essence of liquorice and black treacle and crushed Senna pods. A spoon of this will put hairs on your chest! Ha, ha, ha! Though in this half-light, it looks like you already have! Come on, open up now. **(Pours onto a large spoon)**

WOLF: I don't thi... **(Dame puts spoon in his open mouth)** Bleurgh! That is foul.

MRS CHOPPE: Now, that's not like you, come on, one more spoonful.

WOLF: I'd rather have a mince pie **(Dame offers spoon to his open mouth)** Help me! Argh!

MRS CHOPPE: That's the way. Now Ruby says that you have had some back pain so I've brought some liniment that my late husband used to swear by. Actually he got it from the stable, worked a treat on the horses.

WOLF: Horses? You've got to be kidding me!

MRS CHOPPE: Lift up your nightie now, after all we girls have nothing to hide! Now where is the bottle so I can give you a bit of a rub? **(Searches in bag)**

WOLF: Nothing to hide? Don't bank on it!

MRS CHOPPE: Oh I nearly forgot. I have bought one of those special pills **(Whispers)** for your other trouble... This'll get you going. **(Takes enormous gob-stopper pill from a small box)**

WOLF: That's what I'm worried about! (*Sees pill*) You have got to be joking! Nothing is worth this... I'm off! (*Tries to get up*)

MRS CHOPPE: (*Pushing Wolf down again*) Nonsense. I need to read the instructions as I'm not sure if you have to dissolve this in water and drink it or if it is a suppository... you know... (*Whispers*) for the other end!

WOLF: Definitely, nothing is worth **this!**

MRS CHOPPE: Stay there while I get some water just in case. I'll just pop out around the back of the cottage, to the well. (*Picks up jug and exits*) I won't be long.

WOLF: Take as long as you like! Take all night if you like! I hope she falls down the well! But the way things are going, I wouldn't be that lucky. This isn't going quite as I hoped.

There is a knock at the door

WOLF: Who's this, this time? I dread to think.

RUBY: Hello Grandma, can I come in?

WOLF: At last! (*Disguised voice*) Come in Ruby, my dear. I have been waiting for you... but quickly. **Enter RUBY ,**

EXCERPT CRAZY FOX PANTOMIMES