



**Sample Pages from
Cobweb Dreams - One Act Version**

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COBWEB DREAMS

–One Act Version–

A SPRITELY COMEDY IN ONE ACT BY
Lindsay Price



Cobweb Dreams – One Act Version
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Characters

2M 12W + 5 Either

There are 18 Fairy characters and 1 mortal character.

COBWEB	A young Woodland Fairy. One of Titania's fairies in waiting. Stumpy. Loud.
TITANIA	Queen of the Fairies.
PEASEBLOSSOM, MOTH, MUSTARDSEED	Titania's other fairies in waiting. Peaseblossom is haughty. Moth is kind. Mustardseed is disdainful.
SPARKLE, FROTH, FLICKER	Water fairies. Shiny, bubbly, and quite forgetful.
LARKSPUR, MARIGOLD, PERI	Flower Fairies. Beautiful and vain. Mean girls.
WILLOW, THICKET	Woodland Fairies. Friends of Cobweb. Rough and tumble. Mischievous.
OBERON	King of the Fairies.
PUCK	Oberon's right-hand fairy.
DREG, MUCK, BOG	Punk Fairies. Total punk.
BOTTOM	A mortal with a donkey's head.

You can perform the play with **a minimum of two male actors – one for Oberon and one for Bottom.**

There is room for flexibility. Puck is designated as a male role, but could easily be played by a female. Thicket, Dreg, Muck, and Bog have been played both male and female.

Cutting for Competition

If you are performing *Cobweb Dreams* for a competition, you have permission to cut the play to fit the time constraints.

Set

The setting for the play is different areas of the forest. There should be a multitude of levels around the stage for the fairies to scamper over and pose on. There are sections of moss, rock and flowers. Tree stumps to sit on and jump over. As much greenery as possible above and around to create an enclosed feeling – with lots of natural areas for seating and multilevel pictures.

At times the forest represents Titania's turf – the grove. When the set becomes the grove, flower boughs can be brought in to create a special throne area for Titania.

Costumes

The fairies characters each have a specific designation: water fairy, flower fairy and so on. The costumes should address their otherworldly nature and the type of fairy. Other than that, they can be as simple or complicated as your budget allows. It can be as simple as coloured t-shirts and tights (blue for the water fairies, for example) and tulle armbands to denote wings. All the fairies should have something floaty about their costume to suggest wings. Bottom's mask could also be done very simply with a pair of ears and an exaggerated nose.

NOTE: When Larkspur is covered in river moss, simply attach strips of green and brown fabric or streamers. Then when Cobweb has to “reveal” her hands, she can hold the same fabric.

The play starts in the dark with lights flashing, running all over the stage. Something that shows how fast the FAIRIES are – little flashes of bright lights. Giggling is also heard in various areas.

Lights fill the stage. The FLOWER FAIRIES flit in, obviously preening and focused on how beautiful they are. They glide across the stage. The WATER FAIRIES are bubbling, dancing, moving like water as they enter. The WOODLAND FAIRIES enter tumbling and laughing.

WATER FAIRIES: To the revel round.

WOODLAND: To the dancing sphere.

FLOWER: Gather all fairies, gather here.

WOODLAND: Earth and air.

WATER: Water and fire.

FLOWER: Woodland, garden, tree and flower.

During the above PEASEBLOSSOM, MOTH, MUSTARDSEED (the FAIRIES IN WAITING) enter looking a little flustered, whispering to one another. At the last moment, COBWEB dashes in looking mischievous, and runs to join the other three, much to their relief. TITANIA, Queen of the Fairies enters. The FAIRIES bow.

FAIRIES: All hail Titania! All hail our Queen!

TITANIA: Welcome fairies. Welcome to our midnight revels. Welcome to the dance.

FAIRIES: The dance!

The FAIRIES cheer. They are cut off by an offstage shriek. It is the sound of an unhappy fairy.

TITANIA: What is that?

Another shriek. COBWEB snorts and covers her mouth.

MUSTARDSEED: (to COBWEB) What's so funny?

COBWEB: Nothing... (she moves away)

LARKSPUR: (*offstage*) Titania!

TITANIA: Who shrieks my name?

PEASEBLOSSOM & MUSTARDSEED: Who shrieks the Queen's name?

LARKSPUR enters with MARIGOLD and PERI. She is covered in weeds and very irritated.

MUSTARDSEED: Larkspur!

LARKSPUR: Look at me! Just look at me!

PEASEBLOSSOM: What happened?

LARKSPUR: (*wailing*) River moss!

PEASEBLOSSOM: What?

MARIGOLD: There was river moss all over the green.

PERI: Smelly river moss.

MARIGOLD: We were dancing and all of a sudden,

PERI: Larkspur couldn't stand still.

MARIGOLD & PERI: She flailed and wailed and fell!

LARKSPUR: I have smelly slime all over my wings. I'm covered from head to toe. (*everyone giggles a little*) It's not funny! This is not how a flower fairy is supposed to look. My beauty should not be hidden by slimy, soggy, muddy, oozy river moss!

PERI: And smelly, you forgot smelly.

LARKSPUR wails a bit. The WATER FAIRIES get antsy at the sound.

SPARKLE: What a horrible sound!

FROTH: Larkspur, don't cry.

FLICKER: Fairies aren't meant to sound that way.

SPARKLE: You're the most beautiful of all the flower fairies.

MARIGOLD: Hey...

LARKSPUR: I know I am. That's why this is so tragic.

THICKET: (*aside*) She looks like a drowned rat!

COBWEB: (*aside*) A smelly drowned rat.

WILLOW: *(aside)* What did you do?

COBWEB: *(aside)* Nothing...

MUSTARDSEED comes up behind them. She grabs COBWEB by the hand and yanks her forward.

COBWEB: Hey! What are you doing?

MUSTARDSEED: Have you been to the green, Cobweb, instead of attending your duties?

COBWEB: I don't know what you're talking about.

MUSTARDSEED: Show Titania your hands.

COBWEB: *(hiding her hands)* They're just hands...

TITANIA: What is this about?

MUSTARDSEED: River moss is very sticky. It's impossible to get off you once it's on.

LARKSPUR: *(moaning)* Impossible.

COBWEB: I don't have anything on my hands.

MUSTARDSEED: Then you won't mind showing them to our Queen.

TITANIA: Cobweb?

COBWEB: *(with a sigh)* Mushroom caps.

COBWEB holds out her hands which causes all the FAIRIES to gasp.

MARIGOLD: River moss!

MUSTARDSEED: I knew it.

MOTH: *(more to herself)* Oh Cobweb.

TITANIA: Did you have something to do with this, Cobweb?

COBWEB: It was just a little prank... a little moss...

LARKSPUR: Little?

TITANIA: This is not how fairies in waiting behave.

PERI: I wouldn't act this way.

MARIGOLD: Stump!

COBWEB: But I play tricks all the time...

PEASEBLOSSOM: Fairies in waiting do not play tricks.

COBWEB: Then maybe I shouldn't be one. I hate being a fairy in waiting!

The FAIRIES gasp.

MARIGOLD: I'll do it.

LARKSPUR: I'll take her spot.

TITANIA: It is the duty of every fairy to take their turn in my train, among my senior fairies. Do you wish to fulfil your duty?

COBWEB: *(struggling for a moment and then)* Yes...

TITANIA: We hold our revels on the green tonight. Clean up your mess and make it ready, is that clear? *(COBWEB nods)* Come fairies, let us accompany Larkspur to the standing pool so she can clean off. I feel like a swim.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Hail Titania!

MOTH & MUSTARDSEED: Hail to our Queen!

The FAIRIES bow as TITANIA exits, and then follow off leaving COBWEB, WILLOW and THICKET.

WILLOW: I can't believe you talked to the queen like that.

COBWEB: It's the truth. I hate this.

WILLOW: *(looking around)* Don't say that! The forest has ears.

THICKET: No one gets out of their duty.

COBWEB: I wanted to have some fun, where's the harm?

THICKET: *(imitating LARKSPUR)* Whoaaaaaaa! River moss! Ahhhh!

COBWEB: *(imitating)* "Smelly river moss. I am a smelly, smelly flower." *(WILLOW cracks and starts to laugh)* Ah ha! You think it's funny too!

WILLOW: *(laughing and trying to stop)* Oh! Oh! Stop! The forest has ears!

COBWEB: I'll bet Oberon doesn't make his fairies wait on him. I'll bet they know how to have fun.

WILLOW: *(this shuts down her laughter)* Cobweb! *(looking around)* Come on, we'll help you clean up.

THICKET: Whooaaaaaaa!

They run off laughing. Music plays, the lights change. PUCK enters dancing across the stage. He looks offstage and sees COBWEB, WILLOW and THICKET approaching. He rubs his hands with glee and hides.

COBWEB, THICKET and WILLOW enter wiping their hands.

THICKET: Bugbane, this is gross.

COBWEB: It's the worst smell in the forest.

WILLOW: I think we got it all.

COBWEB: Now we smell like Larkspur. But it was worth it. *(sitting)* I wouldn't be a flower fairy for all the honey in the forest.

THICKET: And I wouldn't be a water fairy for all the clouds in the sky.

WILLOW: We shouldn't speak ill of our fellow fairies.

THICKET: Would you want to be a water fairy?

WILLOW: Well... they're awfully forgetful.

This makes COBWEB and THICKET laugh.

COBWEB: I want to be just what I am. A dirty, scruffy, trickster fairy! Why do I have to change? *(imitating)* "Cobweb, fan. Cobweb, gather dried fruit." *(she sighs)* When Titania called my name, I should have said, "No thank you. I'm going to splash in a mud puddle." *(she puts her hands on her hips)* Maybe it's time for a change.

The lights change and there is a tinkling of bells. This is COBWEB's dream. OBERON enters with PUCK and other members of his train.

OBERON: Dear Cobweb, I am so happy to meet you. I understand you are a lover of jests.

The PUNK FAIRIES laugh meanly and lean in.

COBWEB: King Oberon, I love pulling pranks and I love to laugh.

OBERON: Titania never laughs.

COBWEB: Never!

PUCK: Tell us your favourite jest.

PUNK FAIRIES: Tell us!

COBWEB: Once I placed a nettle on a chair and made a fairy sit on it.

The PUNK FAIRIES roar with laughter.

COBWEB: And I put a stinkbug in a flower.

The PUNK FAIRIES roar with laughter.

PUCK: A stinkbug in a flower! Why have I never thought of that? You should roam with us!

PUNK FAIRIES: Yes, yes!

OBERON: All hail Cobweb! (exits)

PUNK FAIRIES: (as they start to fade offstage) Cobweb! Cobweb!
Cobweb!

The lights change and there is a tinkling of bells.

WILLOW: Cobweb?

COBWEB: (running centre stage and flinging her arms out) I want to cross the brook! I want to join Oberon's train.

WILLOW: Whippoorwill fluff!

THICKET: (same time as above) Bugbane!

WILLOW leaps onto COBWEB and tackles her to the ground.

COBWEB: Ow!

THICKET: Willow!

WILLOW: The forest has ears.

COBWEB: Get off me!

WILLOW: If you start talking about doing you-know-what, it'll get back to Titania and she won't be happy!

SPARKLE dances on. The others are too focused on what's happening to see her.

COBWEB: So?

WILLOW: (*loudly*) So? (*quietly*) So? Is your head filled with caterpillars?

SPARKLE: (*loudly*) Hi fairies!

This causes the other FAIRIES to jump in surprise.

WILLOW, THICKET, COBWEB: Ah!

SPARKLE: (*as in a game*) Ah!

WILLOW: Sparkle, don't sneak up like that.

SPARKLE: Was I sneaking? What fun. I love to sneak! (*she starts sneaking around the stage*)

WILLOW: (*whispering*) Do you think she heard?

THICKET: She'd never remember if she did.

COBWEB: I don't want it to be a secret Willow.

WILLOW: Promise me you'll stop thinking about this.

COBWEB: You can't make me.

WILLOW: I don't want to see you punished. Please!

COBWEB: I... I promise I won't sneak away.

WILLOW: Good. That's good.

COBWEB: I'll just ask Titania to grant me leave. I'll ask to go.

THICKET: You'll what?

WILLOW: Rhubarb greens! That's worse!

COBWEB: She won't miss me, Willow. None of them would.

THICKET: We'd miss you.

WILLOW: I can't take this. My wings, I feel faint, Thicket. Say something.

THICKET: OK. Let's say... Titania grants you leave.

WILLOW: Thicket! Not helping!

THICKET: (*continuing*) Do you think (*whispering*) Oberon will just welcome you with open arms? He, who is so mad at Titania about the little changeling boy, he ruins every midnight revel we try to form? He'll just welcome a fairy from her train?

COBWEB: I didn't think of that.

WILLOW: Good point, Thicket. That's a very good point. Listen to her.

SPARKLE, who all this time has been sneaking about the stage, is again right on top of the others.

SPARKLE: Listen to what?

WILLOW, THICKET, COBWEB: (*jumping in surprise*) Ah!

SPARKLE: (*as if in a game*) Ah! (*she giggles*) This is fun.

THICKET: Look Sparkle, shiny!

SPARKLE: Shiny!

SPARKLE runs across the stage and comes face-to-face with PUCK. He motions for SPARKLE to be quiet. The others do not notice them, they are too caught in their conversation. PUCK motions for SPARKLE to follow him – they are going to sneak up on the others. SPARKLE bounces up and down with glee. PUCK sneaks along with SPARKLE following.

WILLOW: If Titania wouldn't skin you alive for asking to leave, Oberon would do it for asking to join.

COBWEB: (*deciding*) I don't believe that. I'm just his kind of fairy.

THICKET: Is it worth the risk?

PUCK is right on top of the three.

PUCK: How now spirit?

COBWEB, WILLOW, THICKET: (*jumping back in surprise*) Ah!

SPARKLE: (*clapping her hands*) Ah! We got you. We got you!

COBWEB: (*seeing who it is*) You!

WILLOW: Rhubarb greens!

COBWEB: This time I won't be chicken.

As COBWEB moves forward, WILLOW grabs COBWEB and pushes her offstage.

COBWEB: (*as she flies off stage*) Ah!

WILLOW: (*to THICKET*) Keep her away!

THICKET nods and runs off. A crash is heard offstage. WILLOW turns back and poses awkwardly.

WILLOW: So!

PUCK: So. (*grinning*) Where are you going?

WILLOW: Ah, wherever I want. A little bit here, a little bit there.
Quick as a wink, fast as a firebug. Ha, ha. You know, I, ah, I serve
the Queen. The *Fairy Queen*?

PUCK: And?

WILLOW: You should make yourself scarce. Titania will be here any
second.

PUCK: Nuh uh.

WILLOW: Ah, uh huh.

PUCK: *Oberon* will be here any second. He holds his revels here
tonight.

WILLOW: (*a little faint*) He will? Really? Rhubarb greens...

SPARKLE: Oberon! I'll go tell Titania. She hasn't seen him in ages.

*SPARKLE runs off. WILLOW tries to grab her but is
unsuccessful.*

WILLOW: Sparkle no!

*A yell is heard offstage. WILLOW yells to cover up the
sound. She poses, awkwardly.*

PUCK: Did you hear that?

WILLOW: Hear what? I didn't hear anything. Oberon can't come here!

COBWEB sneaks in and watches the conversation.

PUCK: Oberon can do whatever he wants.

WILLOW: So can Titania. She's coming here and Oberon has bothered
her quite enough.

PUCK: With good reason. He is furious at Titania.

WILLOW: Good reason? Ha! Vanish, dull boy.

PUCK: You vanish.

WILLOW: You.

PUCK: You.

COBWEB: (*rushing forward*) Pardon me!

COBWEB trips and rolls downstage to land in front of PUCK.

WILLOW: (*with a sigh*) Rhubarb greens and shag bark.

COBWEB: (*scrambling up*) Hi. I'm Cobweb. You probably don't know me, but I know who you are, I know who you are! Puck. Robin Goodfellow.

PUCK: (*he poses*) I am.

WILLOW: (*trying to pull COBWEB*) Grove. Now.

COBWEB: (*skipping away*) I've heard all about your exploits.

WILLOW: (*calling off*) Thicket!

COBWEB: I know about every jest you've played: Scaring milkmaids, frustrating housewives, so many!

THICKET limps on stage.

WILLOW: What happened?

THICKET: She pushed me into a holly bush.

PUCK: (*drawing COBWEB to the side*) My favourite thing to do is to pretend to be a stool and then when some old lady sits on me, I flatten out. Down she falls. Foolish mortals.

COBWEB: Foolish mortals!

WILLOW: (*groaning*) The forest has ears...

THICKET: (*looking offstage and tugging on WILLOW*) Willow. Look.

COBWEB: That sounds like so much fun.

WILLOW: (*looking off*) Mushroom caps!

COBWEB: (*gathering courage*) I think I would fit in with fairies who like to have fun. I know I would.

WILLOW: (*grabbing COBWEB*) As much as this is, ha, so entertaining. Here comes my mistress.

PUCK: (*looking offstage*) And my master too. *This* will be fun...

WILLOW drags COBWEB one way with THICKET following. PUCK scampers off in the other. There is

thunder and lightning, fast flashes of light all around the stage, as if there is a fairy fight going on.

Lights up. TITANIA and her FAIRIES enter in celebration. Everyone dances and chatters with excitement into the grove. WILLOW has a firm grip on COBWEB.

TITANIA: Success! Success! Did you see the look on Oberon's face?

FAIRIES: We did, we did!

TITANIA: The fairy land buys not the child of me! The changeling boy is mine!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Hail Titania!

FAIRIES: All hail our Queen!

There is a cheer.

COBWEB: Let go of me.

WILLOW: Not for a thousand butterfly wings.

MOTH sees COBWEB and runs to get her.

MOTH: What are you doing over here? Come to your place.

MOTH pulls COBWEB away much to WILLOW's dismay.

TITANIA: My fairies, my fairies, what a beautiful night. You fill me with such joy and merriment. But there is work to be done as the moonlight wanes. To your tasks and let me rest.

PEASEBLOSSOM pulls COBWEB to the side. TITANIA lies down.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Cobweb, you will stand sentinel tonight. Stand watch over our queen.

COBWEB: Me? Wouldn't Moth do a better job? Or Mustardseed? Or anyone?

PEASEBLOSSOM: This is part of your duties.

COBWEB: *(with a sigh)* Yes, Peaseblossom.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Do a good job. *(to ALL)* Off you go fairies.

The FAIRIES exit variously. WILLOW runs up to COBWEB.

WILLOW: Come gather acorns.

COBWEB: Can't. I'm standing sentinel.

WILLOW: What?

PERI: *(overhearing)* What?

LARKSPUR: Her?

WILLOW: Alone?

MARIGOLD: *(calling out)* Mustardseed!

WILLOW: With Titania?

COBWEB: Alone? *(realizing)* Alone! You're right I'll be alone with Titania. It's the perfect time to ask for leave!

WILLOW: Rhubarb greens...

LARKSPUR, PERI and MARIGOLD approach MUSTARDSEED.

LARKSPUR: Mustardseed, why can't I watch the queen?

MARIGOLD: I could watch over the queen.

PERI: I could.

PEASEBLOSSOM approaches.

PEASEBLOSSOM: You have your tasks. Away fairies.

PEASEBLOSSOM gestures the FAIRIES away. LARKSPUR grabs MARIGOLD's hand and moves to the side. Meanwhile, WILLOW and THICKET whisper.

WILLOW: This is a disaster!

THICKET: Maybe not.

WILLOW: She wants to you-know-what! We have to do something.

LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD whisper together.

LARKSPUR: I have a plan.

MARIGOLD: *(louder)* A plan?

LARKSPUR: Shh!

WILLOW: We're going to sneak back when the moon is full.

LARKSPUR: We're going to sneak back when the moon is full.

THICKET: Why?

LARKSPUR: To catch Cobweb.

WILLOW: To convince Cobweb.

MARIGOLD: Why?

LARKSPUR: So we can show Titania a flower fairy is better than any woodland fairy to wait on her.

MARIGOLD: Ohhhhh.

LARKSPUR: I should be there, not her.

MARIGOLD: Or me, I could be there too.

LARKSPUR: *(fakely)* Right.

WILLOW and THICKET leave one way, LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD the other. COBWEB is alone.

COBWEB: So. Here I am alone. Alone with Titania. *(she looks at the sleeping queen and quickly turns away)* Don't be a fraidy cat chicken. How angry would she really be if I asked for leave? She might turn me into a toadstool.

TITANIA: *(sitting up with a jerk)* How dare you, foul sprite! I summon on the power of fairy land to curse you to life forever as a stump! *(she flops back down)*

PUCK sneaks on stage.

COBWEB: She looks so peaceful. The night is so beautiful. Look at that moon... moon shine, moon shine, moon shine down with your pale cold light... *(she sighs)* I wonder if Oberon and Puck are looking up at the moon, right now...

COBWEB turns to come face to face with PUCK, who she didn't expect to see.

PUCK: How now, fairy.

COBWEB: *(total surprise)* Ack!

PUCK: Cobweb. We meet again. Standing guard over your Queen? *(COBWEB nods)* How lucky.

COBWEB: (*whispering*) What are you doing here?

PUCK: (*whispering*) We're going to play a trick on Titania.

COBWEB: We?

PUCK: My master and I.

COBWEB: (*squeaking*) Oberon is here? In the grove? I have to... I'm supposed to...

PUCK: You should probably sound the alarm.

COBWEB: Yes! (*realizing who she's talking to*) No... Yes!

PUCK: Well, which is it fairy? Yes, or no?

COBWEB: You can't trick the Queen.

PUCK: I thought you liked pranks.

COBWEB: I do. But she's the Queen.

PUCK: And Oberon is the king. It's very easy Cobweb. All you have to do is keep quiet.

COBWEB: Me?

PUCK: You're not afraid to play with us, are you?

COBWEB: Afraid? (*standing straighter*) No. I'm not afraid.

PUCK: My King is on his way. What's your answer, fairy? Will you sound the alarm?

COBWEB stands for a moment. And then she shakes her head.

PUCK: This will not be forgotten. (*sneaks out*)

COBWEB runs around the stage wringing her hands.

COBWEB: What did I do? What am I doing? (*she sees OBERON sneak in and move toward TITANIA*) What is he doing? No, no, no, this is wrong, this is wrong. I should do something. I'm supposed to be standing guard. (*she shakes her head*) Don't be a fraidy cat chicken! If Puck likes me, maybe he can help me cross the brook and become one of Oberon's fairies. That's where I belong.

The PUNK FAIRIES step into a spotlight. There is a tinkling of bells.

PUNK FAIRIES: Join us, Cobweb!

DREG: You'll love it in our train.

BOG: We play tricks all day long.

DREG: Say farewell to Titania and the boring fairies.

PUNK FAIRIES: (*making faces as they say this*) Titania!

The spot fades. OBERON appears to drop liquid onto TITANIA's eyes.

COBWEB: What's he doing?

OBERON: (*to TITANIA*) Wake when some vile thing is near.

OBERON slips away.

COBWEB: Mushroom caps. (*hesitantly moving forward*) Oberon? Puck?

It's WILLOW and THICKET who enter, surprising COBWEB.

WILLOW: Cobweb?

COBWEB: Ah! What are you doing here?

WILLOW: We didn't want you to be alone.

THICKET: Are you alone?

COBWEB: (*little over the top*) Of course not. Ha, ha, ha. (*looking off a little*) Titania is right here. You have to go. You'll wake the Queen. If Peaseblossom sees you here, I'll get in trouble. Go!

She moves forward quickly to push the other two offstage, as she does, she trips and falls.

WILLOW & THICKET: Ah!

They all go down and fall on MARIGOLD and LARKSPUR who are hiding.

LARKSPUR & MARIGOLD: Ah!

COBWEB: Shh!

Now everyone is on the ground in a tangle. During the following PUCK sneaks in and watches.

WILLOW: Ow, my wings!

MARIGOLD: Get off me!

THICKET: You get off.

LARKSPUR: Do you mind, I don't like being flattened.

MARIGOLD: What are you doing here?

THICKET: Why are you hiding in the bushes?

LARKSPUR: Who's hiding? It's a free forest.

MARIGOLD: It's not like we're spying on you.

COBWEB: What?

THICKET: Spying?

LARKSPUR: Who said anything about spying?

COBWEB: How long have you been there?

WILLOW: We are visiting our friend. You have no business here.

MOTH: (*entering*) None of you have business here.

ALL: Ah!

LARKSPUR: It isn't nice to sneak up on a fairy, Moth.

COBWEB: Don't wake the Queen! (*turns and sees PUCK, who waves*)
Mushroom caps!

WILLOW: What?

COBWEB: (*squeaking*) Nothing! (*she coughs*) Nothing.

MARIGOLD: (*looking across the stage*) What did you see?

LARKSPUR: You seem nervous.

COBWEB: Nervous? Who's nervous. I'm perfectly fine. Everything's
clover! Ha, ha. (*she trips and falls*)

LARKSPUR: A flower fairy never trips.

THICKET: You didn't seem so graceful earlier.

LARKSPUR: That wasn't my fault.

COBWEB: Be quiet! If the Queen wakes up I'm going to get in trouble.
Everybody out!

LARKSPUR: You can't tell us what to do.

MOTH: I can. Away, away, back to your tasks.

LARKSPUR: But there's –

WILLOW: (*same time as LARKSPUR*) I have to –

MOTH: Go!

MOTH shoos the FAIRIES off as COBWEB looks nervously across the stage.

MOTH: (*right behind COBWEB*) Are you all right?

COBWEB: Are you spying on me too, Moth? So you can tell Peaseblossom I'm unsuitable?

MOTH: I know what it was like to stand guard for the first time. Back to your post.

She exits. COBWEB makes sure that MOTH has gone and then rushes to the other side of the stage.

COBWEB: Puck? Puck?

PUCK: (*popping up*) Hola fairy.

COBWEB: Ah! (*she regains herself*) Puck, what did Oberon do?

PUCK: The jest has begun!

COBWEB: How?

PUCK: My King has placed a love juice on Titania's eyes, juice from a flower hit by Cupid's bow! The first thing she sees when she wakes she'll fall in love with, be it cat or bear or boar. Such a trick!

COBWEB: (*not entirely sure of this*) Oh...

PUCK: (*he claps his hands together and dances*) Now to find that vile thing! Want to come along?

COBWEB: Me?

PUCK: You are a friend to Oberon now.

There is noise offstage. They both look off.

PUCK: Who's that? Mortals? So close to the Queen?

They both move upstage. BOTTOM enters reading from a script in hand.

BOTTOM: Thisbe, the smelly flowers with savours sweet – so smelly is your breath, my dearest Thisbe! (*he overdramatically poses*)

with hand to ear) But hark, a voice! You stay here and I will soon return. (*he overdramatically exits*)

PUCK: It looks like a play. Perhaps we can be actors too? Let's go! (*he runs off*)

COBWEB: Wait! (*she hovers looking off at TITANIA and to where PUCK exited*) Come on, Cobweb. You got what you wanted. Don't be chicken. If you're a friend to Oberon, you can't get into trouble with Titania. Right? (*she looks at TITANIA and comes to a decision*) Right.

During the above WILLOW enters and approaches COBWEB.

WILLOW: Cobweb!

COBWEB: Ah! Stop sneaking up on me!

WILLOW: We have to talk.

COBWEB: There's nothing to talk about.

A yell is heard offstage, where PUCK and BOTTOM exited.

VOICE: Oh Bottom you have changed!

WILLOW: What was that?

COBWEB: (*dragging WILLOW downstage away from the noise*) But you know, I have to tell you, Willow, I have been doing a lot of thinking about what you said. (*WILLOW opens her mouth*) You are so right. You're right. I shouldn't go anywhere, I should stay here and be a better fairy. Cross the brook? The very idea. (*WILLOW tries to interject again*) Where's Thicket? You should find her and tell her I've become a changed fairy. Go!

She pushes WILLOW, who immediately turns as if to go after COBWEB again, but is pulled back by the ear by MOTH, who has entered. MOTH's other hand has THICKET by the ear.

WILLOW: Ow!

THICKET: Ow!

MOTH: Leave Cobweb to her post.

WILLOW: But Moth!

THICKET: Bugbane!

MOTH: (to COBWEB) Everything all right?

COBWEB: Everything's clover!

WILLOW: But Moth!

MOTH: Come on.

MOTH drags WILLOW and THICKET off. COBWEB watches them go and then runs upstage. She looks left and right and sees nothing.

COBWEB: Puck? Puck? Mushroom caps. Maybe he chased the mortals through some other part of the forest.

BOTTOM stumbles on stage. He is changed and now wears a donkey head.

BOTTOM: (calling offstage) You're just making asses of yourself!

COBWEB: Or not...

BOTTOM: Where did they go? I see, I see, they are trying to scare me, make a fool of me by leaving me alone. Ha! Hee Haw! (pauses, snorts like a donkey) I am not scared.

BOTTOM looks around as PUCK sneaks up behind COBWEB and taps her.

COBWEB: Ah!

PUCK: Shh. Look! We have found our monster.

BOTTOM: I will sit right here and I will sing and they will see I am not afraid. Ha! Hee haw!

BOTTOM sits by TITANIA and sings softly.

PUCK: The first "thing" she sees when she wakes! She's going to look such the fool. Ha ha! Look!

TITANIA awakes. She turns to see BOTTOM and is immediately in head-over-heels in love.

TITANIA: What angel wakes me?

PUCK: See how she looks at our monster. She is in love!

COBWEB: Can't she see what he is?

PUCK: The love juice prevents it. She only knows true love. True everlasting love till Oberon gets his way.

TITANIA: Beautiful mortal, I love you. I love you with every fibre of my being.

BOTTOM: Hee haw! Mistress, that seems odd and out of reason. But when has reason and love ever been best friends.

PUCK: I have to tell Oberon! (*runs off*)

COBWEB: Wait!

She starts to run after him. Then TITANIA calls out.

TITANIA: Peaseblossom! Cobweb! Moth! Mustardseed!

COBWEB: Mushroom caps.

COBWEB hesitates and then runs forward to kneel before TITANIA as PEASEBLOSSOM, MOTH and MUSTARDSEED enter. The later are confused and horrified at seeing BOTTOM with their Queen.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Ready...?

MOTH: And I...

MUSTARDSEED: And I...

COBWEB: (*with a sigh*) And I.

ALL: Where shall we go?

WILLOW and THICKET sneak onstage and immediately hide when they see the action.

TITANIA: My dear fairies! I need you to look after my new love. Isn't he the most beautiful thing ever?

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

TITANIA: Feed him, prepare a bed of flowers for his head, and oh, do whatever he wants!

She falls back with a mass of giggles. PEASEBLOSSOM pulls COBWEB to the side.

PEASEBLOSSOM: What is this?

MOTH: How did he get here?

MUSTARDSEED: What did you do?

BOTTOM: You there, sir! What is your name?

COBWEB: (*turning back with a bow*) Cobweb.

BOTTOM: Imagine that! If I cut my finger, I'll use you as a bandage. Hee haw!

COBWEB: (*aside*) Why did he call me sir?

MUSTARDSEED: (*aside*) Don't change the subject.

TITANIA: (*squealing with laughter*) Mortal, you are so funny!

WILLOW: (*referring to BOTTOM*) What is that?

THICKET: It's a mortal with a...really funny head.

BOTTOM: And you?

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*with a bow*) Peaseblossom.

WILLOW: How did he get here?

BOTTOM: I want you to introduce me to your mother, Mistress Squash and your father Master Peapod. Hee haw!

MUSTARDSEED grabs COBWEB. MOTH also listens.

MUSTARDSEED: Explain.

COBWEB: I don't know. By the sun and the moon I was guarding and then everything went...fuzzy.

MOTH: I was watching her. I don't think –

BOTTOM: Hee haw! And your names?

MUSTARDSEED: (*turning back*) Mustardseed.

MOTH: (*turning back*) Moth.

BOTTOM: Such strange names in these parts.

TITANIA giggles like a schoolgirl.

TITANIA: Bring him to my bower and shower him with rose petals! Flowers? I need more flowers. I'm going to get some! (*skips off*)

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

MUSTARDSEED: What do we do?

PEASEBLOSSOM: Take him to the bower, of course.

MUSTARDSEED: (*pointing at COBWEB*) She obviously let this happen.

COBWEB: I didn't.

MOTH: I believe her.

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

PEASEBLOSSOM: All right. (*to COBWEB*) You gather figs. But know we are not done with this.

COBWEB: Yes Peaseblossom.

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

PEASEBLOSSOM, MUSTARDSEED and MOTH lead BOTTOM off while COBWEB stays behind.

COBWEB: Phew.

WILLOW and THICKET come out.

WILLOW: Cobweb! What did you do?

COBWEB: Why does everyone ask me that?

THICKET: Because things are happening and you're in the middle.

WILLOW: The middle? You're at the top of the toadstool! What did you do?

COBWEB: I didn't do anything. Exactly... (*trying to make light*) It was Oberon.

WILLOW: You let Oberon near the Queen? Oh my wings.

THICKET: We have to tell Peaseblossom.

COBWEB: No!

WILLOW: Oh my beating wings. I have to sit down.

THICKET: Why not?

COBWEB: I'll get in trouble, I can't explain... I have to get the figs.

COBWEB runs off. WILLOW and THICKET look at each other. Happy celebration music plays. The lights come up full and the stage floods with dancing FAIRIES. TITANIA escorts BOTTOM onstage.

TITANIA: (*she is totally loopy*) Fairies! Love! Happy! I am so, so happy! Whee!

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

TITANIA: Oh, what wonderful sounds he makes! We must all ring his dulcet notes.

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

TITANIA: Hee haw!

FAIRIES: Hee haw! Hee haw! Hee haw!

TITANIA: My dear fairies! Sing songs, make dances, bring tribute to my love.

The FAIRIES bow and exit variously.

BOTTOM: Mistress Titania? May I ask something of you?

TITANIA: Anything! Shall I have my fairies bring jewels from the ocean floor? Or bring fireflies to light your way? (*laughing*) Oh how I dote on thee!

BOTTOM: Is there any hay?

TITANIA: Fetch hay, Peaseblossom.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Yes, my Queen. (*calling*) Cobweb, you will...

TITANIA: Oh Peasey, peasey, peasey! I want you to go!

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*mortified*) I am a senior fairy, my Queen...

BOTTOM: And some dried peas if you please.

TITANIA: Anything for my love!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Titania...

TITANIA: Hay and dried peas, Peaseblossom.

BOTTOM: Hee haw! Peas... please... Peaseblossom!

TITANIA: (*giggling*) You are so funny! (*to PEASEBLOSSOM*) Off you go, fairy.

PEASEBLOSSOM stiffly bows and exits.

WILLOW: (*whispering*) What if she let (*looking around*) Oberon waltz right into the grove! On purpose! We have to talk to her.

WILLOW and THICKET approach COBWEB but MOTH intervenes. LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD watch from afar.

MOTH: Oh good. Willow and Thicket, I need someone to go on owl patrol.

WILLOW: We will, Moth. Just as soon as I talk to Cobweb –

MOTH: You can talk to her after.

WILLOW: But it will just take a moment.

MOTH: (*gesturing off*) Go.

THICKET: Come on, Willow.

WILLOW: Rhubarb greens!

MOTH follows THICKET and WILLOW off. COBWEB is left alone for a moment.

COBWEB: How am I ever going to join Puck and Oberon now?

COBWEB turns just as SPARKLE runs by. They collide and end up on the floor.

COBWEB: Mushroom caps! You're on my wings, Sparkle.

SPARKLE: Sorry! I was following a dragonfly. They're so fast. Did you hear, Cobweb? (*as if this is news*) Titania is in love with a mortal.

COBWEB: I know, he's right there.

SPARKLE: (*sighing*) She looks so in love. Love makes everything nice. I'll bet she'll be in such a nice mood all the time now because she's in love.

COBWEB: A nice mood? (*thinking*) A nice mood... (*grabbing SPARKLE in a hug*) Sparkle! You're a genius!

SPARKLE: No one's ever said that to me before.

COBWEB: If Titania's in a nice mood, if she's so in love, I'll bet a fairy could ask her anything.

SPARKLE: You could ask her for a pony.

COBWEB: (*pulling SPARKLE to the side*) This is our little secret, Sparkle.

SPARKLE: (*whispering*) I'll never tell you asked Titania for a pony.

COBWEB: This is the perfect moment to ask Titania to leave. If I ask, she can't get angry, she'll have no reason to punish me, and Oberon will welcome me with open arms. (*hugging SPARKLE*) Thanks, Sparkle! (*moving away*) Now how to do it...

SPARKLE: Leave?

LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD approach SPARKLE.

LARKSPUR: Hola Sparkle.

SPARKLE: (*a little distant*) Hello...

LARKSPUR: What were you and Cobweb talking about?

SPARKLE: Dragonflies.

MARIGOLD: And...

SPARKLE: And...

LARKSPUR: (*turning away*) She doesn't know anything.

MARIGOLD: Don't give up so easily. (*to SPARKLE*) And...

SPARKLE: And she told me a secret...

LARKSPUR: (*turning back*) A secret?

MARIGOLD: What secret?

SPARKLE: I don't remember...

LARKSPUR: (*rolling her eyes*) Water fairies.

SPARKLE: It was a big secret though...

LARKSPUR: A big secret? Maybe about the mysterious mortal?

MARIGOLD: You know, Sparkle, I heard if you jump up and down you can bounce a secret right out of you.

SPARKLE: That's a good idea.

MARIGOLD: Let's all bounce.

SPARKLE starts to bounce enthusiastically, as does MARIGOLD.

SPARKLE: Bounce Larkspur!

LARKSPUR bounces less energetically. The three bounce offstage. The focus shifts to TITANIA's area.

TITANIA: How beautiful my mortal looks as he sleeps. Just like an angel.

BOTTOM: (*snorting like a snore*) Hee haw...

TITANIA: Mustardseed! Fetch musk roses so that I may lay them about my true love's brow.

MUSTARDSEED: (*looking around*) But... (*she bows*) Right away, my Queen.

MUSTARDSEED flits off. COBWEB enters and sees TITANIA alone.

COBWEB: Could it be this easy? (*she approaches TITANIA*) My Queen there's something I must –

TITANIA: Cobweb! Cobby Web Web! Would you gather hollyhocks for my mortal?

COBWEB: Hollyhocks? (*she gets an idea*) My Queen... He might like them more if you gathered them. I spied some by the brambles...

TITANIA: You are right! This will be fun! (*she runs off singing*)

COBWEB runs after TITANIA. Just as she leaves, WILLOW runs on stage with THICKET behind.

WILLOW: Oh Rhubarb greens! Where's Cobweb? Where's Titania?

WILLOW runs off with THICKET behind. The lights crossfade to another part of the forest. TITANIA enters dancing, singing to herself. COBWEB follows behind.

COBWEB: You can do this, Cobweb. It's easy. Can I leave? May I leave? Pretty please? She won't say no. (*takes a breath*) There's no reason to hold back. No reason at all...

TITANIA: Dance with me Cobweb! Wheee! I've always wanted to wear tinkling bells, so that I would always tinkle, tinkle, tinkle, everywhere I went. Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle...

COBWEB: My Queen, I have something to ask you. Something very important.

TITANIA: Tinkle, tinkle, violets! (*she runs across the stage to pick violets*)

COBWEB: (*blurting*) I don't want to be in your train anymore.

TITANIA: Oh these violets are the exact colour of my love's eyes.

COBWEB: (*following behind*) Did you hear me? I want to join Oberon's train and I need your leave.

TITANIA: Oh you should. The water fairies are planning a wondrous feast of dew and honey as tribute for my love. If they remember to gather it. You should join them.

COBWEB: I don't want to join the water fairies. I want to join Oberon's train.

TITANIA: Water fairies, Oberon, whatever. Do whatever makes you happy.

COBWEB: I need you to grant me leave.

TITANIA: OK! (*she giggles as she puts on a serious voice*) I Titania, Queen of the fairies, grant Cobweb, woodland fairy, leave to do whatever she wants! (*she dances away*) La, la, la, tinkle, tinkle, tinkle.

COBWEB: (*confused, walks the other way*) Is that it? (*she sinks to the ground*) Was that all I had to do? Am I free, just like that? Why don't I feel free?

OBERON enters on the other side of the stage.

OBERON: Hail, Titania.

COBWEB: (*hiding*) Mushroom caps.

TITANIA: (*throwing her arms around OBERON*) Oberon! La la la la la la (*OBERON detaches himself*) Oby. Oby, Oby.

COBWEB: I should talk to him.

TITANIA: How dour you look – all scowling and flashing.

COBWEB: He doesn't look... happy.

OBERON: I understand you've found a new love. A mortal.

TITANIA: He's the most beautiful mortal I have ever seen. You don't mind, do you?

OBERON: Why would I mind?

TITANIA: Obeeeee.

OBERON: Don't call me that.

TITANIA: You mustn't be upset because I have found true love.

OBERON: (*with a harsh bitter laugh*) I am not upset.

TITANIA: (*in her own world*) Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle.

OBERON: (*circling around TITANIA*) I pity you.

TITANIA: Look! Daisies!

OBERON: I laugh at you. You pathetic creature. You have no idea what you're doing or saying. (*laughing*) If only you could see yourself, you'd be horrified.

TITANIA: Oberon, should I make a daisy chain for my love?

OBERON: That would be a perfect gift.

TITANIA: Daisies and violets for my love...

OBERON: Titania, since you're so involved with your mortal, there's no reason to keep that changeling boy, is there?

TITANIA: (*stopping*) Who?

OBERON: The little Indian boy you have in your care.

TITANIA: Who? Oh! Him. I'd completely forgotten him. Where is he? I don't even know. Oberon! Would you like a little changeling boy?

OBERON: Can you part with him?

TITANIA: Somehow, he doesn't mean anything to me anymore. You'd be doing me a great favour.

OBERON: I'd gladly take him off your hands.

TITANIA: Wonderful! (*holding up some flowers*) I must take these to my beautiful mortal.

OBERON: Yes you should, (*slightly mocking*) right away.

TITANIA: Farewell Oberon! (*she dances away and exits*)

OBERON: (*watching her leave*) Farewell, my Queen. You piteous creature. But soon the world will be reverted to its rightful order. As soon as the boy is mine I will reverse the effects of the juice, and we will rid you of that hideous mortal. As soon as the boy is mine.

He swoops off and COBWEB steps forward.

COBWEB: He wasn't very nice to her. I thought, I just always dreamed he was nicer...

COBWEB turns and sees the PUNK FAIRIES slowly entering, as if their wings were made of lead. The three of them are dragging one bucket.

COBWEB: What are you doing?

MUCK: Nothing. Leave us alone.

COBWEB: Aren't you, aren't you Oberon's fairies? He just went –

BOG: What if we are?

DREG: Yeah, what do you care?

COBWEB: What happened to you?

DREG: We didn't obey him fast enough.

BOG: Dreg! We're not supposed to talk about it.

DREG: Sorry, I keep forgetting.

MUCK: We have to accept our punishment.

COBWEB: Punishment? Who punished you?

DREG: Oberon.

COBWEB: Oberon?

BOG: Dreg!

DREG: Sorry.

BOG: The forest has ears.

COBWEB: You can hardly move.

MUCK: He turned our wings to lead.

COBWEB: Lead? Oh...

DREG: And we have to bring this bucket of water to him.

COBWEB: (*looking*) But the bucket has a leak.

MUCK: We know.

DREG: We've been to the stream twenty times so far.

BOG: We're not supposed to talk about it!

DREG: Sorry.

PUCK: (*entering*) Why are you fairies standing around? Get on with your punishment!

MUCK: Sorry Puck.

PUCK: Do you want to make Oberon mad again?

BOG: No. We're being rightly punished.

PUCK: Look, there's nothing in your bucket, you'll have to go back to the stream.

BOG: If we must.

PUCK: Go!

The FAIRIES turn slowly and exit.

PUCK: (to COBWEB) Hola Fairy, how are you enjoying the jest? Is Titania still the fool, mooning over her mortal?

COBWEB: She's very much in love with him.

PUCK: Oh to be a nearby fly to see her act so! You must be enjoying every moment. (COBWEB doesn't answer. PUCK doesn't really notice.) I'm going to watch those fairies try to fill their bucket. Come join the fun! (he zooms off)

COBWEB: Puck wait! I have leave... I have permission to leave Titania... (sighing) Titania... Oberon. Titania... Oberon. I could leave right now. There's nothing holding me back. I have leave. So why am I holding back? I'll flip an acorn. Heads I stay, tails I go. (she flips and is unhappy with what she sees) Two out of three.

THICKET runs on. He turns and sees COBWEB.

THICKET: There you are!

COBWEB: Thicket. Where's Willow?

THICKET: (sitting) We split up to find you.

COBWEB: Why?

THICKET: We're worried.

COBWEB: I thought fairies didn't worry.

THICKET: What are you doing out here?

COBWEB: Thinking. Do you like being a fairy? With Titania?

THICKET: I love it with all my heart.

COBWEB: Why don't I?

THICKET: I don't know.



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