



**Sample Pages from
Cobweb Dreams**

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COBWEB DREAMS

–Two Act Version–

A SPRITELY COMEDY IN TWO ACTS BY
Lindsay Price



Cobweb Dreams - Two Act Version
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Characters

2M 17W + 7 Either

There are 23 Fairy characters and 3 mortal characters.

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, BUBBLE	Water fairies. Shiny, bubbly, and quite forgetful.
LARKSPUR, MARIGOLD, PERI, LILY, ASTER	Flower Fairies. Beautiful and vain. Mean girls.
WILLOW, THICKET, TEASEL, SPINNY	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.
SNOUT & QUINCE	Two mortals who are terrified by Bottom's transformation.

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, Snout, Quince, Dreg, Muck, and Bog have been played both male and female.

Running Time

Act One: 45 minutes

Act Two: 55 minutes

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 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 create a necklace of strips of green and brown fabric that Larkspur can put over her existing costume. Then when Cobweb has to "reveal" her hands, she can hold the same fabric.

Original Cast

The original version of *Cobweb Dreams* was staged by Havergal College. The production took place on May 2, 2013 with the following cast and crew:

Moth: Claire Barclay	Muck: Isabella Xu
Lychee: Caitlin Bingham	Director: Ina Szekeley
Mustardseed: Taylor Bowes	Producer: Larry Tayler
Flicker: Ellen Coady	Scenographer: Frances Key
Thicket: Myra Corona	Original Music: Norm Martin
Titania: Sarah Cummings	Theatre Manager: Keely Gilroy
Peaseblossom: Elizabeth Farkouh	
Snout and Dreg: Emma George	Costumes: Alex Amini and Carmen Amini/Chifforobe
Froth: Kate Gilchrist	Costumes: Costumes
Fern: Sara Hodaie	Sound & Lighting: Kendra Tam, Victoria Tam
Bog: Alex Jucan	Stage Crew: Caitlin Bingham, Emma George, Sara Hodaie, Becky Osler, Anna Shinn, Kendra Tam, Victoria Tam, Madison Wong
Blue Bell: Lauren Mattan	Sound Recording: Lynn Janes
Quince: Becky Osler	Singers: Madelaine Battista, Lauren Coady, Carolyn Elia, Ainslie Shouldice, Aine Stoute
Sparkle: Samantha Parker	
Marigold: Caroline Pennock	
Larkspur: Alex Rozenberg	
Bubble: Laura Seidelin	
Oberon: Tess Shields-McClean	
Lily: Corie Shyba	
Peri: Carolyn Svonkin	
Willow: Emily Uba	
Puck: Coco Wang	
Bottom: Jessica Wang	
Cobweb: Emma Grace Wilson	

The first production of *Cobweb Dreams* in its current form was staged in twin productions by Owensboro Middle School and Owensboro High School from February 22-24, 2014. The Owensboro High School production featured the following cast and crew:

Snout: Adrianna Dean	Froth: Lauren Russell
Quince: Hayden Elliott	Eddy: Quace Smith
Bottom: Cory Storm	Swirl: Anna Kate Schertzinger
Oberon: Will Van Winkle	Splash: Kyla Isbell
Titania: Navji Dixon	Larkspur: Dayna Mathew
Peaseblossom: Catherine Clark	Marigold: France Seaton
Moth: Emily Froehlich	Blue Bell: Whitney Watson
Mustardseed: Brie Greer	Lily: Ellen Ward
Puck: Carter Stovall	Peri: Trinity Washington
Dreg: Zach Gross	Aster: Abby North
Bog: Felicia Velotta	Iris: Garrett O'Bryan
Muck: Joseph Hunt	Dancer: Luis Wilhite
Nettle: Hannah Shepherd	Cobweb: Kelsey Reese
Budseed: Shelby Simmons	Willow: Helen Merritt
Rot: Nick Sheriff	Thicket: John Thomas Priar
Sparkle: Erin Rouse	Teasel: Josh Kelly
Bubble: Liz Gordon	Busk: Chase Hafley
Flicker: Anna Caroline Brake	Spinny: Kallista Severance

Ash: Emily Ruplinger
Brake: Madison Boswell
Director: Carolyn Greer
Stage Manager: Tatum Helm
Choreographer: Vicki Mattingly
Lighting Design: Keith Woosley
Sound Design: Vicki Mattingly & John Thomas Priar

Scenic Design: Dave Walker
Technical Director: Dave Kirk
Costuming: Susan Damin, Melissa Decker, Angela Hatfield, Sharon Hobbs, Susan Rouse, Lyn Velotta, & technical theatre students

The Owensboro Middle School production featured the following cast and crew:

Snout: Conner Elliott
Quince: Miles Foster
Bottom: J. Tucker Greer
Oberon: Ben Sexton
Titania: Kennedy McCollam
Peaseblossom: Sydney Ford
Moth: Adalei Miller
Mustardseed: Keiara Hagan
Puck: Gracie Hobbs
Dreg: Brian Duvall
Bog: Christian Donovan
Muck: Alyssa Shelton
Nettle: Summer Henry
Budseed: Elias Miller
Sparkle: Layne Draeger
Bubble: Kirsten Evans
Flicker: Brandon Trodgen
Froth: Terionna Inman
Larkspur: Millie Hatfield
Marigold: Hannah Kate Divine
Blue Bell: Madi Boarman
Lily: Maddie Abney
Peri: Hadley Duvall
Cello: Brie Greer
Cobweb: Avery Elliott

Willow: Collena Damin
Thicket: Lucy Decker
Teasel: Madison Kirkman
Busk: Christian Wilson
Spinny: Bailey Eubanks
Soloist: John Thomas Priar

Director: Jessica Stafford
Stage Managers: J. Tucker Greer & Joseph Lewis
Choreographer: Vicki Mattingly
Lighting Design: Keith Woosley
Lighting Operator: Joseph Lewis
Sound Design: Vicki Mattingly & John Thomas Priar

Scenic Design: Dave Walker
Technical Director: Dave Kirk
Costuming: Susan Damin, Melissa Decker, Angela Hatfield, Sharon Hobbs, Susan Rouse, Lyn Velotta, & technical theatre students

ACT ONE

Scene One

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.

Music plays. A light comes up on SNOOT and QUINCE. They are trying to figure out a map. QUINCE turns it one way, then the next.

In a light on the other side of the stage, BOTTOM overdramatically enters holding a script. He practices a dramatic pose. And then tries another. He looks off and exits dramatically.

SNOOT and QUINCE look at each other, back to the map, shrug and exit.

OBERON, PUCK, DREG, BOG and MUCK pop up. They sneak downstage. PUCK points off. He sees TITANIA. OBERON nods and they all exit in the opposite direction.

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.

Each group does a small dance, each trying to be the best and show off. At the end, they form tableaux.

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, and MUSTARDSEED enter looking a little flustered, whispering to one another. COBWEB dashes in looking

mischievous, and runs to join the other three much to their relief.

FAIRIES: All hail Titania! All hail our Queen!

PEASEBLOSSOM, MOTH, MUSTARDSEED, and COBWEB go into their own pose.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Ready!

MOTH: And I.

MUSTARDSEED: And I.

COBWEB: And I.

FOUR FAIRIES: Where shall we go?

WATER FAIRIES: To the revel round!

WOODLAND: To the dancing sphere!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Come Titania!

COBWEB, MOTH, MUSTARDSEED: Come our Queen!

PEASEBLOSSOM, COBWEB, MOTH, MUSTARDSEED: Come and join us!

TITANIA enters. The FAIRIES bow.

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

FAIRIES: The dance!

The FAIRIES move forward to form a circle. There is a cry from a number of FAIRIES as FROTH, BUBBLE and FLICKER fall over one another as if they have been tripped. It's a ungraceful interruption to the ritual.

PEASEBLOSSOM: What happened?

FROTH: We tripped!

COBWEB snorts, clapping a hand over her mouth.

FLICKER: There's spider web all over me.

BUBBLE: Ugh!

MARIGOLD: *(with a little screech)* There's some more!

PERI: (*kicking at something in front of her*) It's all over.

PEASEBLOSSOM: How did spider web get all over the grove?

Thunder and lightning rings out along with echoing, booming laughter. The FAIRIES scream and clutch one another. TITANIA looks to the sky with great annoyance.

TITANIA: Again, Oberon?

There is thunder and lightning, followed by that deep booming laugh. The FAIRIES scream and scatter in all directions, running offstage. TITANIA continues to glare at the sky.

TITANIA: Leave us alone, foul villain!

She gives a growl of frustration and stalks off, with PEASEBLOSSOM, MOTH and MUSTARDSEED following quickly behind. COBWEB stays behind. She cautiously moves downstage, checking to make sure everyone is gone.

COBWEB: Hello? Hellooooo? (*satisfied, she nods her head*) Good.

COBWEB plops down on the ground. She grabs at the air (grabbing one of the spider webs.) She grins.

COBWEB: (*imitating the haughty tone of PEASEBLOSSOM*) "How did the spider web get all over the grove?"

COBWEB hoots with laughter, stopping short when she hears something offstage. She scampers upstage and hides as OBERON, PUCK, DREG, MUCK and BOG enter. They are all laughing and falling all over one another.

COBWEB: Mushroom caps! Oberon and Puck.

PUCK: Did you see those fairies scatter!

BOG: Pow!

DREG: Swoop!

MUCK: Zowie!

PUCK: (*mocking*) Leave us alone, foul villain!

They hoot with laughter, tumble and roughhouse. COBWEB watches the FAIRIES with awe. She wants to talk to them.

COBWEB: *(aside)* Come on, Cobweb. Don't be a chicken. No one's gonna turn your wings to lead.

PUCK: No one crosses Oberon.

BOG, DREG, MUCK: Hail King of Shadows!

COBWEB: *(aside)* Stand up!

OBERON: Come fairies. To our revels. What other mischief can we do?

They exit laughing and COBWEB moves downstage. She kicks the ground.

COBWEB: Oooooooh! Cobweb, you're the biggest chicken. Your idols. They were right there.

The lights change. A tinkle of bells. This is a dream. OBERON, PUCK, DREG, MUCK and BOG enter as they did before, laughing and falling all over one another.

PUCK: Did you see those fairies scatter!

BOG: Pow!

DREG: Swoop!

MUCK: Zowie!

PUCK: *(mocking)* Leave us alone, foul villain!

They hoot with laughter, tumble and roughhouse. This time COBWEB runs right out into the middle.

COBWEB: Hola fairies!

OBERON: Who comes here?

COBWEB: *(posing)* I'm Cobweb.

BOG, DREG, MUCK: Hi Cobweb!

PUCK: Wanna come and play with us?

COBWEB: Boy do I ever!

OBERON: Come, fairy. Let's fly!

They run off laughing, leaving COBWEB alone. The lights change back. A tinkle of bells. COBWEB kicks at the ground.

COBWEB: Fraidy cat chicken.

COBWEB hears more noise from offstage. She looks off.

COBWEB: Mortals! *(she giggles)*

SNOUT and QUINCE wander on still trying to figure out the map. COBWEB sneaks around them.

SNOUT: *(with the map)* I'm sure we've been this way before...

QUINCE: Have we?

SNOUT: Yes. *(turns the map around)* No.

COBWEB giggles causing SNOUT and QUINCE to turn around.

SNOUT: Did you hear that?

QUINCE: No...

COBWEB giggles again.

QUINCE: Yes...

COBWEB pokes SNOUT.

SNOUT: Ow! Why'd you do that?

QUINCE: Do what?

SNOUT: Poke me. *(COBWEB pokes again)* You just did it again!

QUINCE: I did no such thing. I've got two hands on the map.

SNOUT: Somebody poked me...

COBWEB giggles.

QUINCE: *(pointing off)* The Duke's Oak must be that way.

COBWEB sneaks around SNOUT and QUINCE. She poses as a tree which SNOUT and QUINCE run into.

SNOUT: Ow!

QUINCE: Was that tree there before?

SNOUT: Trees don't just move...

COBWEB giggles again causing SNOUT and QUINCE to look. COBWEB freezes.

QUINCE: Perhaps the Duke's Oak is back this way.

They turn around and start to exit back the way they came. COBWEB follows. SNOUT and QUINCE turn back. COBWEB freezes.

SNOUT: Something is not right in this forest.

COBWEB unfreezes and scares SNOUT and QUINCE.

COBWEB: Boo!

SNOUT & QUINCE yell and jump. They scramble over each other to get offstage.

QUINCE: Let's move on!

SNOUT: Posthaste!

QUINCE: We'll rehearse in town tonight!

They run off. COBWEB falls to laughing.

COBWEB: (*imitating SNOUT*) P-p-p-posthaste!

She goes to follow them when MOTH runs in.

MOTH: There you are! Come on!

Without giving COBWEB a chance to object, MOTH pulls COBWEB offstage. From the other side of the stage, OBERON and PUCK emerge. They have seen the whole thing.

OBERON: I thought I spied a flash of fairy – who was that?

PUCK: One of Titania's train.

OBERON: Indeed? Titania has a trickster fairy in her train? One who freely jests with mortals? Interesting...

PUCK: Yes oh mighty lord?

OBERON: Very, very interesting...

PUCK: P-p-p-posthaste!

They laugh and exit.

Scene Two

There is a bit of chaos as TITANIA storms onstage, fuming mad. The other FAIRIES scramble over one another, trying to scramble to keep up but stay in proper formation.

TITANIA: Ooooooooooooooh that Oberon! That... canker-blossom toadstool!

PEASEBLOSSOM: *(running behind)* Peace, good Titania.

MOTH: Calm, good Titania.

MUSTARDSEED: Be serene, my Queen.

TITANIA: *(sitting down with a plop, arms crossed)* Donkey brains!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Rest, my lady.

COBWEB: *(joining in)* Look at the stars, the stars are so pretty! You could even count the stars. That always helps me when I can't... *(the other three stare at her)* sleep.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Cobweb.

COBWEB: Yes, Peaseblossom?

PEASEBLOSSOM: Fan.

COBWEB: Yes, Peaseblossom.

COBWEB picks up a large leaf and starts to fan TITANIA.

TITANIA: That disgusting loathsome animal!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Peace, good Titania.

MOTH: Calm, good Titania.

MUSTARDSEED: Be serene, my Queen.

COBWEB: *(looking up)* Tasmanian Blue Gum! Look at that moon! It's so big and bright. You could light the whole forest with that moon. Titania, it's so bright, you have to see... *(the other three stare at her)* it... or not...

PEASEBLOSSOM: Cobweb.

COBWEB: Yes, Peaseblossom?

PEASEBLOSSOM: Gather dried fruit for our Queen.

COBWEB: Yes, Peaseblossom.

PEASEBLOSSOM: And straighten your wings.

COBWEB runs across the stage, trying to straighten her wings. She trips and falls.

COBWEB: Mushroom caps!

The FLOWER FAIRIES titter at COBWEB.

TITANIA: (*still with her eyes closed*) Who is disturbing my calm?

PEASEBLOSSOM: Cobweb.

MUSTARDSEED: Again.

The lights change. A tinkle of bells. This is a dream. COBWEB jumps up.

COBWEB: That's right! Cobweb's here to disturb the calm and shake things up.

FAIRIES: All hail Cobweb!

MUSTARDSEED: Please tell us what to do!

PEASEBLOSSOM: What do you advise?

COBWEB: First things, first. There's not enough falling around here. Too much dancing and not enough falling.

FAIRIES: Too much dancing! Not enough falling!

TITANIA: I so agree. (*pointing at a group of FAIRIES*) Fall down! (*They do so. Pointing at a second group.*) Fall down! (*a sweeping gesture*) Everyone, fall down!

FAIRIES: Yes Titania!

All the remaining FAIRIES fall. They get up during the following.

TITANIA: Thank you Cobweb for setting us straight.

COBWEB: Think nothing of it my Queen.

She bows, turns and as she does, trips and falls. The lights change back. A tinkle of bells. The FLOWER FAIRIES titter at COBWEB. TEASEL wants to go after the FLOWER FAIRIES for laughing at COBWEB.

SPINNY holds her back. THICKET and WILLOW run forward to help COBWEB up.

COBWEB: Mushroom caps.

THICKET: Are you all right?

COBWEB: What's another fall? I'm already dirty.

WILLOW: And your wings are crooked.

COBWEB: They're always crooked.

WILLOW: *(looking at the wings)* How do they do that...

THICKET: Can you come and play?

COBWEB: *(rolling her eyes)* I have to gather dried fruit.

THICKET: Bugbane! That doesn't sound like fun.

COBWEB: It isn't.

WILLOW: You're not supposed to be having fun. It's an honour to fulfil your duty in the Queen's train.

COBWEB: Yeah, yeah...

WILLOW: Cobweb! I can't wait for my turn.

COBWEB: You can have mine.

WILLOW: Cobweb!

COBWEB: Willow, do I look like a fairy in waiting?

WILLOW: No... but you shouldn't say those things. *(looking around)*
The forest has ears...

THICKET: Larkspur got her wings in such a bunch when you got the position over her this round.

COBWEB: That made it almost worth it. Almost. She should be a fairy in waiting. It's perfect for her. Boring, stuffy and stuck up. She's perfect.

WILLOW: *(looking around)* Cobweb!

LARKSPUR and the other FLOWER FAIRIES glide by.

LARKSPUR: You Woodland fairies must really like mud. You spend so much time on the ground.

COBWEB: Better than being a stuck up flower fairy.

PERI: Ooooooh.

LILY: The stump has something to say?

MARIGOLD: How is it our fair Queen wants a stump among her fairies in waiting?

LARKSPUR: I'll never know.

ASTER: A stump among the flowers.

The FLOWER FAIRIES titter as they exit. TEASEL wants to go after the FLOWER FAIRIES. SPINNY holds her back, talking to her silently.

COBWEB: Better a stump than a... *(she can't think of something good)* stupid flower.

LARKSPUR: *(as she exits)* Woodland fairies should stay on the ground. That's where they belong.

THICKET: Ooooooh she wrinkles my wings.

WILLOW: You can't take a flower fairy seriously.

COBWEB: *(mocking)* "You woodland fairies."

THICKET: I'd like to see her in the mud.

WILLOW: Oh now, Thicket. We can't wish our fellow fairies ill.

THICKET: *She* just did. A little mud on that smug face. That would make me happy.

COBWEB: We could... if you wanted to.

WILLOW: What?

THICKET: How?

COBWEB: Come on! *(she exits)*

WILLOW: You're supposed to be gathering dried figs.

THICKET: *(pulling)* Fly fast, Willow. We're going to have some fun!

WILLOW: *(as she's dragged off)* Whippoorwill fluff!

They exit.

PEASEBLOSSOM: How goes it my Queen?

TITANIA: Oh my dear Fairies. Thank you. I am completely tranquil and at peace.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Peace.

MOTH: All is calm.

MUSTARDSEED: All is well.

TITANIA: Yes. Peace and serenity. That is how we will triumph against my abominable lord. That is how these tricks and schemes of that vulgar wretch will fail, and fail with the misery of a thousand suns! How dare Oberon interrupt our dances with his petty grievances. How dare he disturb our joyous merriment over and over... (*starting to get angry*) and over again!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Peace...

MOTH: Calm...

TITANIA: (*standing*) How dare he!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Titania?

TITANIA: (*yelling at the sky*) What, jealous Oberon! Because I have a little changeling boy and you do not? The fairy land buys not the child of me. I'll never give it to you! Never, never, never!

She growls and screams in frustration, causing all the FAIRIES to stop in their tracks. There is a moment of silence as TITANIA takes a breath. She attempts to gesture out regally.

TITANIA: Carry on.

Three WATER FAIRIES run toward TITANIA.

WATER FAIRIES: Titania, Titania, Titania!

TITANIA: What is it, my lovely water sprites?

The WATER FAIRIES stop in their tracks. They look at one another.

SPARKLE: Ahhhhhh.

BUBBLE: Ohhhhhhh.

WATER FAIRIES: We forget!

TITANIA: I'm sure it was lovely.

FROTH: Look Sparkle!

SPARKLE: What?

FROTH: You're holding a flower.

SPARKLE: (*looking at the flower*) So I am. When did that happen?

TITANIA: Is it for me?

BUBBLE: It must be!

WATER FAIRIES: A pretty flower for our Queen!

SPARKLE gives the flower to TITANIA.

TITANIA: Mustardseed, please put this beautiful present in my hair.

MUSTARDSEED: Yes, my Queen.

WATER FAIRIES: Hooray! A flower for Queen Titania!

TITANIA: Cobweb, pass me a honey fig would you?

MOTH: (*looking at the others*) Ah...

MUSTARDSEED: Ah...

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*sighing*) Cobweb! (*whispering*) Where is she?

MUSTARDSEED: (*whispering*) Stuck in a mud puddle probably.

MOTH: (*whispering*) That's unkind.

MUSTARDSEED: (*whispering*) It's the truth.

TITANIA: What are you whispering for?

MOTH: (*whispering*) There she is!

COBWEB runs on holding a small wooden tray with dried figs on it. She slips, slides, trips, but at no point loses the figs. She lands at TITANIA's feet.

COBWEB: Fig, Titania?

TITANIA: Oh thank you, Cobweb.

MUSTARDSEED: (*pulling COBWEB aside*) If gathering figs is too difficult, perhaps –

*Offstage there is the shriek of an unhappy fairy.
Everyone stops what they are doing.*

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!

MOTH: That is not a happy sound.

TITANIA: Who shrieks my name?

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

LARKSPUR enters with the FLOWER FAIRIES. She looks matted down, covered in dirt and very irritated. During this, WILLOW and THICKET creep in and silently share with TEASEL and SPINNY what they've done. They enjoy it greatly.

MUSTARDSEED: Larkspur!

LARKSPUR: Look at me! Just look at me!

PEASEBLOSSOM: What happened?

ASTER: We were dancing on the green.

PERI: And then we weren't.

The FAIRIES coo and murmur in concern as they gather around LARKSPUR. COBWEB joins the WOODLANDS.

FLICKER: Oh Larkspur.

SPARKLE: You're slimy.

BUBBLE: And soggy.

FROTH: And muddy.

FLICKER: And oozy.

TEASEL & SPINNY: Poor Larkspur!

They snicker with THICKET.

WILLOW: Shh!

LARKSPUR: (*with a wail*) River moss!

PEASEBLOSSOM: What?

MARIGOLD: There was river moss all over the green.

LILY: Smelly river moss.

PERI: We were dancing and all of a sudden,

LILY: Larkspur couldn't stand still.

ASTER: Her arms went one way.

MARIGOLD: And her wings went another.

ASTER: She slipped.

PERI: She slid.

MARIGOLD: And wriggled.

PERI: And rolled.

MARIGOLD & PERI & ASTER: She flailed and wailed and fell!

LARKSPUR: (*sniffing a little*) There is slime all over my wings.

LILY: It smells too.

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!

LILY: And smelly. You forgot smelly.

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

FLICKER: What a horrible sound!

FROTH: Larkspur, don't cry.

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

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

MARIGOLD: Hey...

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

MARIGOLD: Not the *most* beautiful.

LILY: No, I'm the most beautiful.

ASTER: I am.

FLICKER: You're still beautiful, Larkspur.

BUBBLE: Even underneath the slime.

LARKSPUR: Do you really think so?

SPARKLE, BUBBLE, FROTH & FLICKER: Of course!

LILY: Hard to get past the smell, though.

MARIGOLD: Hard to be beautiful when you smell like that.

LARKSPUR wails. The WATER FAIRIES try to comfort her.

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

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

COBWEB: *(aside)* It's a good look for her.

They snicker together.

WILLOW: *(aside)* It's not funny.

TEASEL & SPINNY: Yes it is.

They all giggle. MUSTARDSEED comes up behind them. She grabs COBWEB by the hand and yanks her forward, causing everyone to stop.

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.

THICKET: *(looking at her hands)* Bugbane!

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. The FAIRIES gasp.

MARIGOLD: River moss!

MUSTARDSEED: I knew it.

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

WILLOW: *(aside)* She's going to turn us into frog grass. She's going to turn us into weeds!

THICKET: Shh!

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

All the FAIRIES stare at COBWEB who wriggles a little before speaking.

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

LARKSPUR: Little?

TITANIA: This is not how fairies in waiting behave.

LILY: I wouldn't act this way.

ASTER: I wouldn't cover others in river moss.

MARIGOLD: Stump!

MUSTARDSEED: How dare you disregard your position with such low behaviour.

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!

All the FAIRIES gasp.

MARIGOLD: I'll do it.

LARKSPUR: I'll take her spot.

PERI: Pick me!

LILY: Pick me!

TITANIA holds up her hand. There is silence.

TITANIA: It is the duty of every fairy to take their turn in my train, among my senior fairies. Almost every fairy. (to the WATER FAIRIES) No offense.

WATER FAIRIES: (totally agreeing) No, no! None taken.

TITANIA: Do you wish to fulfil your duty?

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

TITANIA: We hold our revels on the green tonight. You will 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 walks past, and then chatter as they follow her off. TEASEL and SPINNY run up to THICKET, who silently tells them to follow TITANIA. They go off.

PEASEBLOSSOM: (to MOTH as they exit) I hope you know what you're doing.

MOTH: Give it time. Give her time.

LARKSPUR: (as they exit) The standing pool is the perfect place to admire my beauty.

MARIGOLD: My beauty.

LILY & PERI & ASTER: Mine!

Once all have exited, THICKET and WILLOW gather around COBWEB.

WILLOW: I can't believe you said that.

THICKET: Thanks for not spilling our part.

COBWEB: Why bother? I'm the one who always gets in trouble. Willow might swallow her wings if she had to stand in front of Titania.

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!

THICKET: No one gets out of their duty.

COBWEB: I wanted to have some fun. Where's the harm?

THICKET: It was fun.

WILLOW: It was not fun.

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.

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

THICKET: Whoaaaaaaaa!

They run off laughing.

Scene Three

Music plays, the lights change. BOTTOM enters, engrossed in a script, very dramatically. During the following he finds more and more dramatic poses. PUCK sneaks in and watches this.

BOTTOM: (*he stops, looks up and poses*) The raging rocks and shivering shocks shall break the locks of prison gates; (*he changes his pose*) and Phibbus' car shall shine from far, and make and mar the foolish Fates. (*he bows deeply, thanks his imaginary audience*) Thank you! Thank you! (*he points offstage*) To the play!

BOTTOM exits dramatically. PUCK goes to follow but then sees COBWEB, THICKET and WILLOW enter, wiping their hands on giant leaves. He hides.

THICKET: Bugbane. This is gross.

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

WILLOW: I think we got it all.

They dump their leaves.

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. Cobweb, straighten your wings." (*she sighs*) When Titania called my name, I should have said, "No thank you. I'm going to splash in a mud puddle."

THICKET: That's where woodland fairies belong.

COBWEB: Maybe I don't. Maybe I don't belong here at all. Maybe –

WILLOW: Shupt! Don't you say it!

COBWEB: Say what?

WILLOW: You already said it once, twice is tempting fate.

COBWEB: What if I want to tempt fate? Disturb the calm, shake things up. Maybe it's time for a change!

The lights change, there's a tinkling of bells, and we go into COBWEB's dream to see what she's been thinking. OBERON enters with PUCK and other members of his train. They are boisterous and fun.

OBERON: All hail Cobweb!

PUNK FAIRIES: All hail Cobweb!

The PUNK FAIRIES circle around COBWEB and kneel.

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: 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?

DREG: (*laughing*) I can't stand it!

BOG: Stuck up flower fairies, that's what they deserve!

OBERON: Cobweb, you are my kind of fairy.

PUCK: You should roam with us!

PUNK FAIRIES: Yes, yes!

MUCK: Come with us.

OBERON: All hail Cobweb! (*exits*)

PUNK FAIRIES: (*as they start to exit*) Cobweb! Cobweb! Cobweb!

The lights change. COBWEB is back with WILLOW and THICKET.

WILLOW: (*clapping her hands*) Cobweb, I mean it! Don't open your mouth.

COBWEB: I didn't say anything.

WILLOW: You're thinking it.

COBWEB: How do you know?

WILLOW: You have a look on your face.

THICKET: You do look kind of funny.

COBWEB: I don't see what's so wrong with thinking... or saying...

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 WILLOW)* 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 don't see her yet.

COBWEB: So?

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

SPARKLE: *(loudly)* Hi fairies!

The others 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: You shh! Just shh! *(to SPARKLE)* Oh Sparkle... did you... hear anything? Just now?

SPARKLE: Yes I did!

WILLOW: Rhubarb greens...

THICKET: You did?

SPARKLE: I heard a robin. And a chickadee. And the wind in the trees.
And...

WILLOW: That's lovely. You keep listening! (to THICKET) Keep her busy. (she drags COBWEB to the side)

THICKET: What are you doing here, Sparkle? Why aren't you at the pool?

SPARKLE: Who's at the pool?

WILLOW: (aside to COBWEB) You know what happened to Loblolly.

COBWEB: That's different.

THICKET: Everyone. You were just there.

SPARKLE: Was I?

COBWEB: She was a bad fairy. She tried to sneak away.

WILLOW: She wanted to (whispering) cross the brook. And what happened to her?

THICKET: Why did you leave?

SPARKLE: Hmmmmmmm.

COBWEB: Titania banished her from the forest.

SPARKLE: Oh! I saw a minnow and I wanted to see where he went...

WILLOW: But not before she turned her wings to lead and made Loblolly carry water from the stream in a leaky bucket.

SPARKLE: And I saw a bumblebee and I wanted to see where he went...

COBWEB: Oberon and his fairies always look like they're having fun. I'll bet they don't get in trouble for pulling a couple of pranks.

WILLOW: I am not hearing this.

COBWEB: Don't you ever think about a life somewhere else?

WILLOW: No!

SPARKLE: And then I saw a... (she looks up and sees...) butterfly!

SPARKLE follows the butterfly and runs right over to WILLOW and COBWEB.

THICKET: Sparkle!

SPARKLE: (*as if seeing WILLOW and COBWEB for the first time*) Hi fairies!

WILLOW & COBWEB: (*jumping in surprise*) Ah!

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

THICKET: (*catching up*) The butterfly went that way Sparkle.

SPARKLE: Butterfly! (*she dances across the stage as if following a butterfly*)

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.

THICKET: You'll what?

WILLOW: (*dragging COBWEB close*) Rhubarb greens! That's worse!

COBWEB: (*loudly*) She won't miss me, Willow.

WILLOW: Of course she would. She's your Queen! Thicket?

THICKET: We'd miss you.

COBWEB: None of *them* would.

THICKET: (*clearly bothered*) So you'd leave? Just like that?

COBWEB: Why not? If I ask, I bet Titania'd be happy to let me go.

The lights change and there's a tinkle of bells. This is another dream. TITANIA and her train enter from one side as OBERON and PUCK enter from the other.

TITANIA: (*as she enters*) There she is! My favourite fairy.

OBERON: (*as he enters*) My favourite fairy indeed.

COBWEB: Please Titania, may I go with Oberon? May I join him?

OBERON: We would welcome her with open arms.

TITANIA: You have my blessing, Cobweb. Go where you feel you belong.

TITANIA hugs COBWEB. There is light applause and chatter as they exit. The lights change back. A tinkle of bells. During the following, PUCK pops his head up and watches.

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 on)* 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 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 up 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 offstage*) Ah!

There is the sound of a crash.

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

THICKET nods and runs off. WILLOW turns back and poses awkwardly.

WILLOW: So!

PUCK: So. (*with a grin*) 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!

From offstage there is a yell. PUCK looks off. WILLOW yells to cover up. PUCK grins at her. She poses, awkwardly.

PUCK: Did you hear that?

WILLOW: (*not wanting to know*) 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: I know.

PUCK: She stole a changeling boy from an Indian king.

WILLOW: I know.

PUCK: And Oberon wants him.

WILLOW: Why are you telling me this? I know.

PUCK: Titania's fairies are real... forgetful.

WILLOW: What do you take me for? A water sprite? Vanish, dull boy.

PUCK: You vanish.

WILLOW: You.

PUCK: You.

COBWEB rushes forward.

COBWEB: 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 recognize me, I mean we saw each other all the time during the revels when all the fairies were together, but now we're not, together, the fairies, 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.

PUCK: And I yours.

COBWEB: Mine?

PUCK: And I saw what you did, with the mortals? P-p-p-posthaste!

WILLOW: (*calling off*) Thicket!

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

THICKET limps onstage.

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!

COBWEB: Ha, ha!

PUCK: Foolish mortals.

COBWEB: Foolish mortals!

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

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

COBWEB: That sounds like so much fun.

PUCK: Why do anything that's not fun?

WILLOW: He can't be here when Titania arrives.

THICKET: (*tugging on WILLOW*) Willow.

WILLOW: What?

THICKET: Look.

WILLOW: (*looking offstage*) Mushroom caps!

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

WILLOW: (*running in-between PUCK and COBWEB*) As much as this is, ha, so entertaining. Here comes my mistress.

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

PUCK moves upstage left. THICKET and WILLOW drag COBWEB upstage right. TITANIA and all her FAIRIES enter stage right, OBERON and his FAIRIES enter stage left. TITANIA and OBERON glower at each other.

OBERON: (*with a sneer*) Titania.

TITANIA: (*also with a sneer*) Oberon.

There is thunder and lightning as TITANIA and OBERON move to stand face to face centre stage.

COBWEB: (*frustrated*) One moment. Just one more moment!

WILLOW: You are asking for trouble.

COBWEB: If Puck likes me, he can talk to Oberon and if Oberon likes me, Titania won't be able to turn my wings to lead.

There is thunder and lightning and TITANIA turns her back to OBERON.

OBERON: Give me that boy!

TITANIA: Not for thy fairy kingdom!

THICKET: Willow's right, you're asking for trouble.

COBWEB: I can't believe you're taking her side.

WILLOW: What's wrong with my side?

There is thunder and lightning.

OBERON: (*yelling at her*) Well go thy way!

TITANIA folds her arms and stands her ground. OBERON growls and turns, gesturing angrily at his FAIRIES to exit.

There is thunder and lightning.

Scene Four

TITANIA: Success! Success!

Everyone cheers and dances with great excitement.

TITANIA: Did you see the look on his face?

FAIRIES: We did, we did!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Hail Titania!

FAIRIES: All hail our Queen!

Another cheer.

WILLOW: (to COBWEB) We have to talk about this.

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. Sing me now asleep and let me rest.

The FAIRIES dance in a circle as they sing. The FAIRIES in waiting prepare TITANIA's area. During the song, WILLOW tries to get near COBWEB and fails.

You spotted snakes with double tongue,
Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;
Newts and blind-worms, do no wrong,
Come not near our fairy Queen.

Philomel, with melody
Sing in our sweet lullaby;
Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby:
Never harm,
Nor spell nor charm,
Come our lovely lady nigh;
So, good night, with lullaby.

*The FAIRIES hum quietly as they dance.
PEASEBLOSSOM pulls COBWEB to the side.*

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

COBWEB: Me?

PEASEBLOSSOM: Yes, you.

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

PEASEBLOSSOM: This is part of your duties.

COBWEB: Yes, Peaseblossom.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Do a good job.

COBWEB: Yes, Peaseblossom.

The song picks up again. TITANIA prepares to sleep.

Weaving spiders, come not here.
Hence, you long-legg'd spinners, hence!
Beetles black, approach not near;
Worm nor snail, do no offence.
Philomel, with melody

Sing in our sweet lullaby;
Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby:
Never harm,
Nor spell nor charm,
Come our lovely lady nigh;
So, good night, with lullaby.

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*whispering*) The Queen is asleep. Now all is well. 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 perfect!

WILLOW: Rhubarb greens...

MUSTARDSEED approaches.

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

MARIGOLD: I could watch over the Queen.

ASTER: I could.

LILY: I could bring her dew drop pearls!

LARKSPUR: Let me!

PEASEBLOSSOM approaches.

MUSTARDSEED: Peaseblossom, surely there is a better choice of fairy to stand guard.

WILLOW: Wouldn't it be better to have two fairies on watch? Oberon was so... growly just now. Grrr.

MUSTARDSEED: That's a good idea.

PERI: Me!

LILY: Me!

LARKSPUR: Pick me!

WILLOW: I'll do it.

PEASEBLOSSOM: You have your tasks. Away fairies.

*PEASEBLOSSOM gestures the FAIRIES away.
PEASEBLOSSOM stops MOTH. Meanwhile, WILLOW
and THICKET whisper.*

WILLOW: This is a disaster!

THICKET: Maybe not.

WILLOW: She wants to you-know-what! She's going to be alone with Titania! She's going to end the night a toadstool with lead wings.

THICKET: Maybe standing guard will be good. Make her feel like she belongs.

WILLOW: Do you believe that?

THICKET: No. But saying it can't hurt.

WILLOW: We have to do something.

LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD are also whispering.

LARKSPUR: I have a plan.

MARIGOLD: (*louder*) A plan?

LARKSPUR: Shh!

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*to MOTH*) You know what to do.

MOTH nods.

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.

LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD exit. On the other side of the stage, PEASEBLOSSOM and MOTH finish up. PEASEBLOSSOM exits off and MOTH turns to see THICKET and WILLOW.

THICKET: I wonder if we should tell someone what she's thinking.

WILLOW: Are you mad? Tell? You've got a head full of caterpillars too!

THICKET: Moth might be able to –

WILLOW: Do you want to be a toadstool with leaden wings?

MOTH: (*approaching*) Why are you standing here?

THICKET & WILLOW: Ah!

MOTH: Shhhhh. You'll wake the Queen. Off you go.

They exit, with WILLOW protesting, leaving COBWEB alone guarding TITANIA.

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. I could sneak away, be across the brook before she wakes up... But what if someone caught me? How angry would she *really* be if I asked for leave? What would she say?

TITANIA: *(sitting up with a jerk, her eyes closed, this is a dream)* Cobweb! Don't go! Don't leave me! *(she flops back down)*

COBWEB: She might turn me into a toadstool.

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

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...

The lights change. There's a tinkle of bells. We're in COBWEB's dream. The PUNK FAIRIES surround COBWEB.

DREG: What's this, what's this?

MUCK: Are you the new fairy?

COBWEB: I am.

MUCK: Cobweb.

BOG: She left Titania's train.

COBWEB: That's right.

DREG: Weren't you punished?

MUCK: Wasn't she angry?

COBWEB: I'm too fast for her.

PUNK FAIRIES: Oooooooh.

COBWEB: When she was sleeping, I dropped honey on her forehead.

FAIRIES: Oh!

COBWEB: And tangled bark in her hair.

FAIRIES: Wow!

MUCK: Weren't you afraid?

COBWEB: No, why?

DREG: She's the Queen.

COBWEB: I'm no fraidy cat.

FAIRIES: She's no fraidy cat.

COBWEB: I go where I want.

BOG: We're glad you're on our side.

MUCK: You're the best prankster fairy ever.

The lights change, there's a tinkle of bells, and the PUNK FAIRIES exit. During the above PUCK has snuck forward so that he's right behind COBWEB.

COBWEB: *(looking off)* Someone's coming. Who's there?

COBWEB turns to come face to face with PUCK, whom 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.

PUCK: 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! Oberon can't be here!

PUCK: Oberon can be wherever he wants.

COBWEB: *(looking around)* Oh...

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

COBWEB: You can't trick the Queen.

PUCK: Why not?

COBWEB: She's 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: I thought not. (*he turns to go*)

COBWEB: Wait!

PUCK: The night draws to an end, Cobweb. Either sound the alarm or join us in our fun. If you want to cross the brook...

COBWEB: How did you know about that?

PUCK: The forest has ears. (*looking off*) Someone's coming.

*PUCK skips to a hiding place just as MOTH enters.
COBWEB turns to her.*

COBWEB: (*over compensating*) Moth. What a surprise.

MOTH: Just checking in. Is everything all right?

COBWEB: Why wouldn't it be? Tra, la, la. Right as rain.

MOTH: (*looking off*) I thought I saw a shadow.

COBWEB: (*getting in her way*) No shadows here but the moon and the trees.

MOTH: You seem nervous.

COBWEB: Why wouldn't I be nervous? I'm guarding the Queen after all!

MOTH: I know this isn't what you want, but sometimes we have to do things we don't want to do.

COBWEB: You are so right. Right as rain. Ha. I already said that.

MOTH: To your post, fairy.

MOTH moves to exit. Before she completely leaves, she turns back to look at COBWEB, who waves. MOTH leaves and PUCK pounces on her.

COBWEB: (surprised) Mushroom caps!

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

COBWEB stands for a moment then 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 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 can help me cross the brook... I should be one of his fairies. I should be just like one of his fairies.

The lights change and there's a tinkle of bells. The PUNK FAIRIES enter laughing and roughhousing.

BOG: This is the best jest ever.

MUCK: Better than the best.

DREG: (rubbing his hands with glee) Oberon is going to get one over on Titania.

PUNK FAIRIES: And you helped.

COBWEB: That's right I did. I'm the only one who helped. I'm better than any of you. I'm the best prankster fairy ever!

PUNK FAIRIES: Oooooooh.

DREG: You'll love it in our train.

BOG: We play tricks all day long.

COBWEB: I can't wait!

DREG: Say farewell to the boring fairies.

PUNK FAIRIES: Bye, bye!

The PUNK FAIRIES run off. The lights change. There's a tinkle of bells. 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? Puck?

WILLOW and THICKET enter.

WILLOW: Cobweb?

COBWEB: (surprised) Ah! What are you doing here?

THICKET: What's the matter?

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

THICKET: Are you alone?

COBWEB: (exaggerated) Of course not. Ha, ha, ha. (looking off a little) Titania is right here. Sleeping. Shhhh.

WILLOW: You didn't try to talk to her did you?

COBWEB: Of course not. She's sleeping. Shhh.

THICKET: Was someone just here?

COBWEB: What? No.

THICKET: No one?

COBWEB: 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 on WILLOW and THICKET.

WILLOW & THICKET: Ah!

They 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. PUCK sneaks in and watches during the following.

WILLOW: Ow, my wings!

MARIGOLD: Get off me!

THICKET: You get off.

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

THICKET: What are you doing here?

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.

LARKSPUR & MARIGOLD: Ah!

WILLOW & THICKET: Ah!

COBWEB: Shhhh!

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

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

WILLOW: What?

PUCK hides.

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

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

COBWEB: Nothing.

LARKSPUR: You seem nervous.

COBWEB: Nervous? Who's nervous. I'm perfectly fine. Ha, ha. (*she trips, falls and bounces right back up*)

LARKSPUR: A flower fairy never trips.

THICKET: You didn't seem so graceful earlier.

LARKSPUR: That wasn't my fault.

MARIGOLD: If someone hadn't done something...

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

MARIGOLD: Awww.

LARKSPUR: Then the Queen would see how unsuitable you are.

MARIGOLD: You never should have been a fairy in waiting.

MOTH: Enough!

COBWEB: Everybody out!

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

MOTH: I can. Cobweb has a job to do and every one of you is stopping her from doing so. Away, away, back to your tasks.

LARKSPUR: (*aside to MARIGOLD*) Something's fishy here.

WILLOW: Cobweb, I –

COBWEB: Leave me alone, Willow.

MOTH: You heard her. Away.

MOTH shoos the FAIRIES off. 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: Just trying to help. I know what it was like to stand guard for the first time. So does Peaseblossom.

COBWEB: Peaseblossom never makes mistakes. And her wings are never crooked.

MOTH: Everyone was a young fairy once. *(she looks at COBWEB)* Did you see something in the trees?

COBWEB: No! Nothing! *(she takes a breath)* Just me and the moon.

MOTH: *(as if she's going to share something)* You know, Cobweb...

COBWEB: What?

MOTH: *(shakes her head)* Never mind. 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: Wait till I tell you. The jest has begun!

PUCK laughs. Thunder and lightning.

Blackout.

ACT TWO

Lights come up on PUCK laughing and rubbing his hands with glee.

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! Ha ha ha. Such a trick!

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

PUCK: The juice works hard tonight, I've already placed it on the eye of an surly Athenian to make him fall in love with a fair maid. But that will not be the case with our fair Queen. *(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?

They both move upstage as QUINCE, SNOUT and BOTTOM enter with scripts. BOTTOM is very dramatic.

QUINCE: Speak, Pyramus! Thisbe, stand forth!

PUCK: Mortals! So close to the Queen?

BOTTOM: *(posing)* Thisbe, the smelly flowers with savours sweet...

QUINCE: The flowers smell with savours sweet!

BOTTOM: *(posing)* So smelly is your breath my dearest Thisbe!

QUINCE slaps a hand to his head.

BOTTOM: *(he poses)* But hark, a voice! *(changing poses)* You stay here and I will again appear!

BOTTOM runs off dramatically. SNOUT and QUINCE look at each other and follow him off.

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, speaking just as COBWEB is about to leave after PUCK.

WILLOW: Cobweb!

COBWEB: Ah! Stop sneaking up on me!

WILLOW: We have to talk.

COBWEB: There's nothing to talk about.

Out of the corner of her eye, she sees PUCK upstage, sneaking across to the other side. COBWEB gasps and suddenly pulls WILLOW downstage.

COBWEB: 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. And I have you to thank for this. You have made me see the error of my ways. Well done, Willow! (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. (*moves downstage*) Maybe he chased the mortals through some other part of the forest.

SNOOT and QUINCE run screaming from stage left to right. PUCK chases after them, hooting and hollering.

COBWEB: Or not.

SNOOT and QUINCE run screaming from stage right to left. PUCK follows laughing.

PUCK: Foolish mortals! (*calling out*) I'll follow you. I'll lead you about a round! Through bog, through bush, through brake, through brier! Come on, Cobweb! (*exits*)

COBWEB: I'm coming!

She starts to follow when LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD run on.

LARKSPUR: Where are you going?

COBWEB: (*freezing*) Ah!

LARKSPUR: Where are you going?

COBWEB: Nowhere.

MARIGOLD: What was that noise?

COBWEB: What noise?

LARKSPUR: You didn't hear a noise?

COBWEB: You're making more noise than anyone. You're going to wake the Queen and she won't be happy.

LARKSPUR: You looked like you were going somewhere.

MARIGOLD: Deserting your post?

COBWEB: Why would I want to do that? Being a fairy in waiting is such fun! Don't you wish *you* were a fairy in waiting, Larkspur?

LARKSPUR: You're up to something, I can –

COBWEB sees BOTTOM stumble onstage. He is wearing the head of a donkey. LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD don't see him.

COBWEB: *(turning downstage)* Quick! Do you smell that?

LARKSPUR: What?

COBWEB: *(coughing)* It's the worst stinkbug I ever smelled.

MARIGOLD: *(sniffing)* I don't smell anything.

COBWEB: It's coming your way. Duck! Plug your ears! Hold your breath.

LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD dive to the ground and cover their ears.

SNOUT and QUINCE run onstage. They stop dead when they see BOTTOM and yell.

BOTTOM: *(putting his hands on his hips)* Why is everyone yelling?

SNOUT: Bottom, you have changed!

QUINCE: Cha-cha-changed!

SNOUT: What is on your head?

MARIGOLD: *(raising her head)* Can we get up yet?

COBWEB: *(pushing her back down)* Not yet. Still stinky.

BOTTOM: Hee haw! *(SNOUT and QUINCE yell and run offstage. Calling after them.)* You're just making asses of yourself.

BOTTOM wanders offstage the other way.

LARKSPUR: *(realizing)* Why am I plugging my ears for a stinkbug?

MARIGOLD: Yeah...

COBWEB: It's a special kind of stinkbug. It goes in the ears.

MARIGOLD: Ugh!

LARKSPUR: Why didn't you plug your ears?

COBWEB: Oh, and it sits on the skin, don't you feel it? *(feeling her arms)* Oh, it's gross. A whole layer of stink.

MARIGOLD: (*feeling her skin*) I do, I do! I feel all slimy.

COBWEB: You better go wash it off.

LARKSPUR: (*suspicious*) I don't feel anything.

COBWEB: You will. Do you want to smell again? Worse than river moss?

MARIGOLD: Let's go, Larkspur!

MARIGOLD grabs the not-quite-believing LARKSPUR offstage. They exit just as BOTTOM wanders onstage with a yawn. COBWEB watches.

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.

PUCK: Hola fairy.

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: Ho ho, what wondrous news! Titania is going to fall in love with an ass!

COBWEB: She is?

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 head-over-heels in love.

TITANIA: What angel wakes me?

PUCK: See how she looks at our monster. She is in love! (*dances with glee*)

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. Hee haw!

TITANIA: You are so smart. You are just as smart as you are beautiful.

PUCK: I have to tell him! *(he exits on the run)*

COBWEB: Wait!

She moves to run after him, when TITANIA calls out.

TITANIA: Peaseblossom! Cobweb! Moth! Mustardseed!

COBWEB: Mushroom caps.

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

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 what's happening.

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 as the others look at one another.

THICKET: What's wrong with Titania?

PEASEBLOSSOM: Hail mortal.

MOTH: Hail!

MUSTARDSEED: Hail!

COBWEB just stares.

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*aside*) Cobweb!

COBWEB: Why don't I go get some honey figs?

She tries to go but the others stop her.

MUSTARDSEED: Stay where you are.

TITANIA is oblivious, totally focused on BOTTOM. The FAIRIES talk in whispers.

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?

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

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

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! (*he grabs PEASEBLOSSOM's hand and overshakes it*) Pleased to meet you, very pleased to meet you.

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, Mustardseed. 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.

MUSTARDSEED: (*aside to COBWEB*) Fuzzy?

COBWEB: I swear I was watching and then... Titania was calling my name. You have to believe me.

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

MUSTARDSEED: You do?

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

PEASEBLOSSOM: All right. (*to COBWEB*) You gather figs.

COBWEB: Yes, Peaseblossom.

PEASEBLOSSOM: But know we are not done with this.

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

PEASEBLOSSOM: Come, mortal.

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

COBWEB: Phew.

WILLOW and THICKET come out.

WILLOW: (*whispering*) Cobweb! What did you do?

COBWEB: Why does everyone ask me that?

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

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

THICKET: Why are you whispering? There's no one here.

WILLOW: The forest has ears.

COBWEB: I didn't do anything. Exactly...

THICKET: Exactly?

WILLOW: Rhubarb greens.

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

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

THICKET: We have to tell Peaseblossom.

COBWEB: I can't.

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

THICKET: Why not?

COBWEB: (*doesn't want to say the real reason*) I'll... I'll get in trouble.
You don't want me to get in trouble, right?

WILLOW: (*still in her own world*) My poor beating wings.

COBWEB: It's just a little prank.

THICKET: It doesn't seem so little, Cobweb.

COBWEB: I have to get the figs.

COBWEB runs off. Music plays and the lights fade to black.

Scene Five

The lights come up full and the stage floods with FAIRIES, all talking, all buzzing about what has happened to TITANIA.

MARIGOLD: Did you hear?

TEASEL: Did you see?

FROTH: A mortal?

BUBBLE: It can't be.

PERI: Titania with a mortal!

LILY: With a mortal?

SPARKLE: Titania is in love!

FLICKER: She's totally changed.

ASTER: Did you hear?

SPINNY: Why would Titania be with a mortal?

LARKSPUR: How did a mortal get so close to Titania?

MARIGOLD: A mortal with a funny head.

FROTH: Don't all mortals look funny?

PERI: I don't believe it.

SPARKLE: I love love.

BUBBLE: She's singing songs.

MARIGOLD: And swimming in rose petals.

LILY: Titania?

PERI: I don't believe it!

FLICKER: Did you hear?

SPARKLE: Hear what?

LARKSPUR grabs WILLOW.

WILLOW: What do you want?

LARKSPUR: Is it true?

WILLOW: Is what true?

TEASEL: Let go of her, Larkspur.

She steps forward. SPINNY holds her back.

LARKSPUR: Did Cobweb let a mortal into the grove?

SPINNY: You smell funny, Larkspur. Take another dive in the river moss?

LARKSPUR: Ugh! (*she scuttles away*)

A fanfare sounds. TITANIA enters with BOTTOM. PEASEBLOSSOM, MOTH, MUSTARDSEED and COBWEB carry flowers and tree boughs as they progress across the stage to TITANIA's throne. The FAIRIES all bow as they pass and chatter at what they see. Once everyone is settled, TITANIA turns and addresses the group.

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. Hee haw!

FAIRIES: Hee haw! Hee haw! Hee haw!

The FAIRIES fall into groups, talking quietly, stealing looks at TITANIA as they exit.

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!

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*not used to this*) My Queen...

TITANIA: My most pea of peasey. You will get hay yourself for my most treasured mortal, won't you?

PEASEBLOSSOM: Me? You want me to?

TITANIA: I do.

BOTTOM: Hee haw!

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*mortified*) I am a senior fairy, my Queen... Cobweb will be –

TITANIA: (*a little like a child*) But I want you to do this! It's very special. It's must be gathered by a most special fairy.

PEASEBLOSSOM: But to gather hay I'll have to go beyond the forest. I'll be away for some time...

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! Hee haw!

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

PEASEBLOSSOM: (*resigned*) Yes, my Queen. (*she exits*)

These conversations are in groups about the stage.

LARKSPUR: I still think Cobweb's to blame for this.

MARIGOLD: Our Queen looks so happy, though.

LARKSPUR: Do you want to be a fairy in waiting or not?

THICKET: Willow, you can't control her every move.

WILLOW: She doesn't know what she's doing. (*whispering*) What if she let (*looking around*) Oberon waltz right into the grove! On purpose!

THICKET: Cobweb wouldn't do that...

WILLOW: What will she do next?

THICKET: She has to make her own decisions.

WILLOW: Her decisions are madder than a nut weevil on a porcupine!

COBWEB: (to MOTH) Thanks for sticking up for me.

MOTH: Why wouldn't I? We must stick together.

COBWEB: Moth, I'm not cut out to be a fairy in waiting. It really would be better if Larkspur took my place.

MOTH: Maybe. But you haven't really given it a chance. Don't give up so soon.

COBWEB: Peaseblossom hates me.

MOTH: No she doesn't. She just takes being a senior fairy very seriously. (sharing a secret) Maybe a little... Queenly?

COBWEB: Moth!

MOTH: Shhh. (giggling) I never said that.

COBWEB: Well, Mustardseed hates me.

MOTH: Mustardseed hates me.

COBWEB: She does?

MOTH: See? You're not as alone as you think you are.

*During the above, WILLOW and THICKET approach.
But just as WILLOW is about to reach COBWEB,
MOTH turns from the conversation, and sees the two.*

MOTH: Oh good. Willow and Thicket, I need someone to go on owl patrol. Take Teasel and Spinny with you.

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.

WILLOW: But –

MOTH: Now.

THICKET: Come on, Willow.

WILLOW: Rhubarb greens!

THICKET and WILLOW leave with TEASEL and SPINNY. MOTH follows. The WATER FAIRIES exit. COBWEB is left alone for a moment.

COBWEB: How am I ever going to join with Puck now? I'm stuck, I can't just fly away... Stuck as a fairy in waiting. Ugh. *(she sighs)* Maybe Moth is right. Maybe I haven't given it a chance.

COBWEB turns just as SPARKLE, who has zoomed back onstage, runs by. They collide.

COBWEB: Mushroom caps!

The two end up on the ground. The FLOWER FAIRIES laugh at them.

ASTER: Do you ever watch where you're going, stump?

PERI: You have the grace of a mud puddle.

LILY: And smell like one too.

They laugh as COBWEB tries to untangle herself from SPARKLE.

COBWEB: 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...

SPARKLE: Do you think dragonflies are ever in a nice mood? Their wings sound so angry. Bzzzz... bzzzzzzz.

COBWEB: *(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.

SPARKLE: Leave?

COBWEB: I don't have to find a way to get to Puck, I'll just Titania to grant me leave. It's perfect. Titania won't be angry so she has no reason to punish me, and Oberon will welcome me with open arms.

SPARKLE: Leave?

COBWEB: (*hugging SPARKLE*) Thanks, Sparkle! (*moving away*) Now how to do it...

COBWEB exits. LARKSPUR and MARIGOLD approach SPARKLE.

LARKSPUR: Hola Sparkle.

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

MARIGOLD: What's the matter?

SPARKLE: I don't know. My wings feel really heavy and I have a funny feeling in my tummy.

LARKSPUR: What were you and Cobweb talking about?

SPARKLE: That's right, I was talking to Cobweb...

LARKSPUR: And...

SPARKLE: We talked about 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? Why Marigold, we should help Sparkle remember her secret.

MARIGOLD: We should?

LARKSPUR: Especially if it's about our dear friend Cobweb.

MARIGOLD: Cobweb's not our friend.

LARKSPUR: Perhaps Cobweb's secret has something to do with the mysterious mortal...

MARIGOLD: Oh! Yes. Cobweb. Secret. Got it. 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. COBWEB approaches.

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

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

MUSTARDSEED: *(to COBWEB)* Where have you been?

COBWEB: *(overly loud)* I was looking for tribute.

TITANIA: *(looking up)* Hmm?

MUSTARDSEED: *(whispering)* Shh!

COBWEB: *(overly loud)* I was looking for wonderful things for our Queen to give to her mortal.

MUSTARDSEED: Not so loud!

TITANIA: *(gleefully)* Cobweb!

COBWEB: Yes Titania?

TITANIA: Come closer. What are you saying?

MUSTARDSEED: (*pushing in front of COBWEB*) I was just saying that there must be some tribute we could gather for your mortal, my dear Queen.

TITANIA: Mustardseed! How kind of you. Yes, you must go. What will you bring?

MUSTARDSEED: Ah, what will I bring...

COBWEB: Perhaps some musk roses?

MUSTARDSEED: My Queen, I will gather musk roses for you to lay about his hair.

TITANIA: What joy! Please do, I would be so pleased.

MUSTARDSEED: Right away my Queen.

MUSTARDSEED turns and smiles smugly at COBWEB as she flits off. COBWEB watches her go.

COBWEB: That was easy. (*she looks around, sees there's no one around, and approaches TITANIA*) My Queen...

TITANIA: (*she had been completely engrossed with BOTTOM*) Hmmmm?

COBWEB: My Queen, perhaps your mortal would like some hollyhocks?

TITANIA: Hollyhocks? Oh Cobweb! My dear Cobweb, the most favourite of all the Cobwebs in my train. You always know the right things to say. Please, bring hollyhocks.

COBWEB: Right away. (*she turns to go*) Although...

TITANIA: What? What pearls of wisdom have you for my ears?

COBWEB: He might like them more if *you* gathered them. Personally. I spied some near the brambles.

TITANIA: You are right! You are so right. This is going to be such fun! (*she runs off*)

COBWEB: That was too easy. (*she runs off after TITANIA*)

Just as she leaves, WILLOW runs onstage with THICKET behind.

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

WILLOW runs off with THICKET behind. The lights cross fade to another part of the forest.

Scene Six

TITANIA enters dancing, singing to herself. COBWEB follows behind.

COBWEB: You can do this, Cobweb. It's easy. Just ask. Can I leave? May I leave? Please? Pretty please? She won't say no. *(trying another voice)* My Queen, will you do me the honour of granting me leave... *(another tactic)* Let's be straight, you don't want me around, I don't want to be around... *(she takes a deep breath)* There's no reason to hold back. No reason at all...

The lights change. There is a tinkle of bells. This is a dream. MOTH, THICKET, and WILLOW enter repeating their line over and over until COBWEB cuts everyone off with 'Leave me alone.'

MOTH: You're not as alone as you think you are. *(repeat)*

THICKET: You'd leave just like that? *(repeat)*

WILLOW: You can't cross the brook! *(repeat)*

COBWEB: No! Don't you see? I don't belong.

MOTH: You belong with us.

THICKET: Come and play with us.

MUSTARDSEED, PEASEBLOSSOM and LARKSPUR enter repeating their lines until COBWEB interjects.

MUSTARDSEED: How dare you! *(repeat)*

PEASEBLOSSOM: Fan, Cobweb. *(repeat)*

LARKSPUR: Woodland fairies should stay on the ground. *(repeat)*

COBWEB: Oberon and his fairies wouldn't say that to me.

MUSTARDSEED: You should go.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Please go.

LARKSPUR: Stump.

It grows to a climax.

WILLOW: Stay with us Cobweb!

PEASEBLOSSOM: *(same as above)* Oh Cobweb.

MUSTARDSEED: *(same as above)* Clumsy Cobweb.

THICKET & WILLOW: *(same as above)* Cobweb?

COBWEB: *(shouting)* Leave me alone!

The lights change back to normal. The FAIRIES fade back slowly and exit as the scene continues.

TITANIA turns and sees COBWEB. She runs across the stage and throws her arms around COBWEB.

TITANIA: Dance with me, Cobweb! Wheee! *(grabs COBWEB and spins her in a circle)* Do you know what? I've always wanted to wear tinkling bells, so that I would always tinkle, tinkle, tinkle, everywhere I went. Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,

COBWEB: Titania I –

TITANIA: *(she takes a deep breath in)* Have you seen him?

COBWEB: Who?

TITANIA: My mortal. I have the most beautiful mortal. More beautiful than Oberon. *(she wanders away from COBWEB)* More beautiful than all my fairies. More beautiful, why, than even myself! How could that be possible? I suppose we are the most beautiful pair. He and I are the most beautiful pair of all. We outshine the sun and all the stars. *(she sighs)* Beautiful mortal. Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle.

COBWEB: I wanted to talk to you. I have something to ask you, something very important.

TITANIA: Oh Cobweb! *(she throws her arms around COBWEB)* Cobweb, Cobweb, Cobweb.

COBWEB: *(blurring out)* I want to leave.

TITANIA: *(grabbing COBWEB and twirling in a circle)* La, la, la, la, dance with me! Whee!

COBWEB: *(breaking away)* I don't want to be in your train anymore. I don't want to be laughed at, I don't want to be called a stump. I want to go somewhere where I'll fit in. I want to belong.

TITANIA: You are the best looking stump do you know that?

COBWEB: I want to join Oberon's train and I need your leave. May I go?

TITANIA: Violets! (*she runs across the stage*) Oh these violets are the exact colour of my love's eyes. Oh wondrous treasure.

COBWEB: (*following behind*) Did you hear me? I want to 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, my Queen. I want to join Oberon's train.

TITANIA: Water fairies, Oberon, whatever. It all sounds wonderful! You should 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. (*OBERON detaches himself*) Oby. Oby, Oby. Obeeee. Obeee.

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: You should try it. A mortal love would turn that frown upside-down in a heartbeat.

OBERON: I know what it is to love a mortal.

TITANIA: Oh that's right! What was her name... Hippo... Hippa...
Hyper...

OBERON: Hippolyta.

TITANIA: Isn't she getting married? I seem to remember something
about a wedding. I love weddings! I love love! That's what you
need Oberon. More love in your life. These violets match my true
love's eyes.

OBERON: Do they?

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.

TITANIA: La, la, la, la, la,

OBERON: You pathetic creature. You have no idea what you're doing
or saying. *(laughing)* If only you could see yourself, you'd be
horrified. Still, I'd like to see you act like this for me. I should cure
you of this mortal affliction and then reapply the dew so I'm the
first thing you see. You'd be a slave.

TITANIA: *(in own world)* Daisies and violets for my love.

OBERON: That would make me laugh. You would simply love me
without a thought in your head.

COBWEB: *(aside)* That's not very nice. That's mean.

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

OBERON: That would be a perfect gift.

TITANIA: You are so right. *(she hums to herself and dances)*

OBERON: *(to self)* Pathetic.

COBWEB: That's more than a trick...

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: You'd love for me to have the boy, wouldn't you?

TITANIA: Oberon!

OBERON: Yes my Queen?

TITANIA: Can I give you a present?

OBERON: Anything.

TITANIA: 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: Then I will, anything for you. I'd gladly take him off your hands.

TITANIA: Wonderful! I'll send him with one of my fairies to you right away. *(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.



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