

HANSEL AND GRETEL VS. THE WITCH

Based on the opera *Hansel and Gretel*
by Engelbert Humperdinck and Adelheid Wette
and *The Original Folk and Fairytales of the Brothers Grimm*

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck
Libretto/Adaptation by Joshua Borths

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SCENE 2

The woods. Hansel and Gretel enter. Gretel is leaving a bread crumb trail and making up a song on the spot. Hansel is happily running around enjoying his freedom.

GRETEL

OH, ONCE UPON A TIME IN A DEEP, DARK WOOD.
TWO CHILDREN RAN AWAY JUST BECAUSE THEY COULD.

THEY CAN DANCE AND THEY CAN SING.
NOW, THEY CAN DO ANYTHING!

WHO NEEDS RULES AND PARENTS WHEN IN THE WOODS?

Hansel looks confused. He no longer knows where they are.

HANSEL

GRETEL, DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE?

GRETEL

HANSEL, DON'T WORRY. WE ARE NOT LOST.

HANSEL

Looking for reassurance ARE YOU SO SURE 'CAUSE YOU'VE A PLAN?
Hopeful IF SO, EXPLAIN IT IF YOU CAN.

GRETEL

LOOK, HANSEL, JUST LOOK AT WHAT I HAVE DONE!

She gestures to the trail of breadcrumbs.

HANSEL

Not understanding BUT, GRETEL— *He sees them* OH! A TRAIL OF CRUMBS!

GRETEL

Indicating to the crumbs WITH THIS BREAD TRAIL, WE CANNOT LOSE OUR WAY—

HANSEL

AND IT CAN GUIDE US HOME TODAY!

Gretel agrees.

Tom Thumb (as a bird puppet) follows along the path of Hansel and Gretel "eating" the bread crumbs. Hansel and Gretel don't notice him until it's too late.

GRETEL

THAT'S RIGHT. *Sending him off on a new adventure* NOW, GO WHERE'ER YOU PLEASE.

HANSEL

I THINK I'LL GO EXPLORING BEYOND THOSE TREES!

GRETEL

THAT IS JUST THE THING YOU NEED. HAVE SOME FUN AND DON'T WORRY!

HANSEL

Noticing they are now gone, but not seeing the bird BUT GRETEL, WHERE DID THE BREAD CRUMBS GO?

GRETEL

Looking for the trail THEY WERE JUST... WAIT A SEC... I DO NOT KNOW!

HANSEL

WHAT IF OUR CRUMBS ARE GONE?
GRETEL, WE CAN'T GET HOME NOW, AND WE CANNOT GO ON!

GRETEL

Hansel, do you know what this means?

HANSEL

What?

GRETEL

It means that someone is following us and stealing our bread! What do we do?

HANSEL

Bravely We do what we were taught to do when lost. We ask for help.

WHO'S THERE?

GRETEL

WHO'S THERE?

TOM THUMB

I'M HERE!

Tom Thumb responds and Hansel and Gretel are startled and give a shout.

Ka-Kaw! Hello! *He flies to them... Ad lib bird sounds throughout the following dialogue.*

This is some *good* bread!

HANSEL

Uh... You can talk?

TOM THUMB

Of course, I can talk, can't everybody?

GRETEL

But, you're a bird...

TOM THUMB

Well, that does seem to be true. But it wasn't always the case. You may have heard of me. *Over-the-top* I'm Tom Thumb!

Music begins.

GRETEL

Starstruck, to Tom You are THE Tom Thumb?

HANSEL

To Gretel Like... The Tom Thumb in your storybook?

GRETEL

I've read all about your adventures. Even though you're small, you use your power to help out those in need! But... You're a bird... You're supposed to be a small boy...

TOM THUMB

Oh kid, you don't know the half of it!

I ONCE WAS A KID JUST LIKE YOU.

EXCEPT, I NEVER GREW!

I STAYED THE SIZE OF A PLUM.

THAT'S WHY THEY CALLED ME TOM THUMB.

KAW! KAW! KAW!

I KNEW WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO FEEL QUITE POWERLESS AND SUPER SMALL,
AND SO, I STARTED HELPING ALL WHO NEEDED RESCUING.

MY NAME BECAME QUITE FAMOUS ACROSS THE FOREST.
BUT SOON, THERE CAME A *WITCH* WHO ATE KIDS FOR HER BREAKFAST.

TO STOP ME FROM WARNING THEM AND SPREADING THE WORD,
SHE CURSED ME BY TURNING ME INTO A BIRD.

GRETEL

The Witch turned you into a bird because you were warning the children about her?

TOM THUMB

Exactly. And now, as a bird, everyone I warn just shoos me away. I can't do anything to stop the Witch... and I'm hungry all the time.

GRETEL

We know what it's like to be hungry...Oh, your story makes me so mad. We must do something and teach this evil witch a lesson.

HANSEL

But we have no one to help us. We are just two lost children and a *bird*.

TOM THUMB

KAW!

To be continued...

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