

A Christmas Riddle

By

Louise Byres

'A Christmas Riddle' was first produced in Sydney, Australia
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title 'Santa and the Witch's Spell'.

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Cast of Characters

<u>Rabbit:</u>	Lou Wallace
<u>Santa:</u>	Rob Baxter
<u>Wicked Witch:</u>	Marion Sandberg
<u>Tinkerbell:</u>	Louise Byres
<u>Cowboy:</u>	John edwards
<u>Dustbin:</u>	Roy Marten
<u>Freddie:</u>	Dominic Sweeney
<u>Waitress:</u>	Saly Jenkins

ACT I

Scene 1

SANTA's softly lit cave decorated with Christmas trees, steamers, balloons etc. A dining table with chairs, knives and forks etc. A sleigh, beside it a pile of presents. A pair of boots stand alone at the front of stage. RABBIT enters.

RABBIT Santa Claus! Santa Claus! Are you there? (*Looks around*) Where can he be I wonder? (*Looks at his watch*) Oh, I can't tell the time on this thing. It's always running slow. Well, he isn't here that's for sure. Oh, just look at that lovely pile of presents. I wonder if mine is amongst them. I'll just have a very quick peek. (*Looks through parcels*). I can't see it. Gosh I get so excited when I see all the beautiful presents. (*Approaching audience*) Oh hello! How are you all today? My name is Rabbit. I'm a comedian you know. Everyone in my family finds me very funny. Say, why should you not tell secrets to pigs? Because they squeal. Good one, eh? Why is a skinny woman like a lamp? Because they are both light! Ha, ha, ha. Did you like that one? Say what's big and red with white fur? Santa Claus! That's one of my Christmas jokes. I wonder where he has got to. It's Christmas Eve. He's due to go off delivering his presents very soon. I think I had better go and look for him. Say, what's a frog's favourite drink - croaka cola! Off! I go. Tiddle eye, tiddle eye, tiddle eye po!)

Exit RABBIT. No sooner has he left than SANTA enters, banging on his stomach.

SANTA (*heartily*) Ho! Ho! Ho! What a lovely evening for my reindeer sleigh ride across the roof tops. Oh how I love Christmas Eve and all those plates of mince pies at the bottom of the chimney! (*He examines his waistline*) I hope I don't get caught like I did one year. They had to get the chimney sweep to pull me out. (*He starts to stack presents on the sleigh*) I wonder if all the boys and girls have been good this year. They all say they have in their letters. (*Holding up a couple of letters*) 'Dear Santa, please may I have a beautiful doll for Christmas. My brother wants a train set.' I must get that right. Last year I forgot who had asked for what and the boys got dolls and the girls got the train sets. Ah well, my memory isn't as good as it used to be. In fact I can't remember what my name is. What is my name? Ah yes, Rudolph. How very silly of me. (*He bends to pick up more presents and his trousers fall to the ground*) Oh, how silly of me. I must have forgotten to put on my belt. (*He finds his belt and puts it on*) It happened last year when I was delivering

(MORE)

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some parcels. Very embarrassing indeed. Now have we got everything together? Good. All set to go sleigh riding? (*He sits on the sleigh*) I think something else is missing. What can it be? I have my hat. My belt. My trousers. (*Realising suddenly*) My boots! My feet would get very cold flying across the rooftops by night without them. I would be all right when I got to Australia thought, wouldn't I? They don't wear boots out there at Christmas time. From what I hear they spend most of their Christmas holidays down at the beach. I don't know. I don't understand it at all. Here at the North Pole it is all icy and snowy outside. Now, are we ready? (*He sits at the sleigh and cracks a whip. Nothing happens*) Come on Rudolph, we will be late for the girls and boys. A ho ho ho and off we go! (*Still nothing*) Now what's the matter? Aha! No Rudolph! Where could he have got to? (*He paces the room*) Aha! In the stable. I told him he could sleep late today before our long journey. I forgot to wake him. Rudolph? (*Off Stage the sound of heaving snoring*) Rudolph? Are you awake? We are late for our trip. (*Off Stage the snoring continues*) I shall go next door and wake him.

SANTA exits. Enter WICKED WITCH.

WITCH While Santa Claus is in the stable
I'll to work, as I am able
Rudolph won't wake until later today
Because I Wicked Witch have drugged his hay
If Santa can't deliver the gifts to each door
Then Christmas will cease to exist any more
Oh how happy, how happy, how happy I am
What a wonderful day, what a wonderful plan
Children I hate, I wish they were dead
When they are glad I get pain through my head
When they smile my spin become twisted
When they laugh my skin starts to blister

(She takes the presents from the sleigh and hides them around the cave)

This cave is beginning to grow on me
I think I could live here quite happily
Get rid of the lights, the glitter and cheer
Make everything dark, cold and severe
Bats, cauldrons and horrible things,
Long legged spiders and demons with wings
No one would ever dare to come near
A Sign would read 'Wicked Witch Lives Here'
(Off Stage the sound of footsteps)
Aha, I must hide and feast my eyes
On Santa Claus's great surprise
I'll observe his shock and his sorrow
When he discovers there'll be no presents tomorrow

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I've hidden them all, every parcel and pack
It'll take a magic spell to get them all back

(WITCH sings 'SANTA CAN LOOK' then hides but accidentally drops her black hankie SANTA enters)
SANTA My, my what a sleepy head Rudolph is today. If he doesn't wake up soon we are going to be very late. Oh well. I shall carry on with my preparations. *(At this point he notices the empty sleigh)* Jumping reindeer! I'm sure I filled the sleigh with parcels. Oh dear, my memory is getting bad. Where can I have put them? What a silly old man I am.

(SANTA sits, and starts to cry. TINKERBELL enters)
TINKERBELL Merry Christmas Santa! What a Wonderful night
The sky is so clear and the stars are so bright
I wish I were coming along with you
I'm sure there'd be lots of things to do
I could join in all the thrills and joy
When you distribute the gifts to each girl and boy
(She notices Santa's distress)
Oh Santa, why do you look so sad?
On this special night you should be glad
What terrible thing has made you cry?
It's just as well that I dropped by!

SANTA *(Sadly)* Oh Tinkerbell, I'm a silly old man with no memory at all. I thought I have packed my sleigh with gifts and parcels but when I returned from the stable I saw that the sleigh was bare. I fear that I never did make any presents for the children.

TINKERBELL Why Santa Claus that can't possibly be
When I called in last week you worked happily
Carving and painting and building toys
To deliver tonight to the girls and boys
Beautifully wrapped, each one a surprise
Why I even made some lovely mince pies.
SANTA So if I did make them, where are they now? I am sure I would have packed them on my sleigh.

(TINKERBELL sees the black hankie. She holds it up for SANTA to see).
TINKERBELL *(trembling)* Oh Santa Claus I rather fear
The Wicked Witch is somewhere near

SANTA Then it is she who must have stolen
the presents!

TINKERBELL Yes I fear she is not too far away
'Tis she who's been tampering with your sleigh
(MORE)

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SANTA But the Wicked Witch would never enter my cave. It's far too bright for her in here and filled with good things. She doesn't like Christmas trees, tinsel and pretty lights. In fact they dazzle her black eyes so she can't see. However if she had managed to get inside the cave she would surely have stolen them.

TINKERBELL Oh Santa, a fairy friend told me today
Something awful, I really don't know how to say
The Witch now has a powerful potion
It comes in the form of a sticky black lotion
She rubs it into her long black hair
And she's no longer scared of the Christmas cheer.
(*SANTA starts to pace the room*)

SANTA Oh Tinkerbell, this could be the end of me. What will the children do without Santa Claus every year?
(*sings THIS OLD WITCH*)

TINKERBELL Oh Santa please don't feel so sad
We all know well the Witch is bad
She would have hidden the presents away
And maybe drugged dear Rudolph's hay
Knowing the Witch she's hidden them well
But they will return with my wonderful spell.
SANTA Oh Tinkerbell! I had forgotten all about your magic powers. How silly of me. Do cast a spell to return the gifts and awaken Rudolph from his long slumbers.

TINKERBELL A fairy's wing and a fairy's charm
A wand outstretched from a fairy's arm
A spell that only a fairy knows
And this is how the magic goes:

(*TINKERBELL looks completely blank*)

SANTA What is it, Tinkerbell? What's the magic word?

TINKERBELL I've forgotten. Oh dear! How rotten!
A fairy's wing and a fairy's charm
A wand outstretched from a fairy's arm
A spell that only a fairy knows
And this is how the magic goes...
(*Pause*)

Oh dear, what is it? How does it go?
How dreadful! How awful! I really don't know!

SANTA You must remember, Tinkerbell. Please good fairy, for the sake of the children, think back and bring the good spell to mind.

TINKERBELL I can't.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANTA You can.

TINKERBELL No I can't.

SANTA (*with audience*) Yes you can.

TINKERBELL It's no good. But never fear
My book of spell is always near
I'm sure there's one that will do the trick
I'll rush off now and be back quick.

*(TINKERBELL darts off on her mission. WICKED WITCH
comes out from the corner of the cave)*

WITCH Ha ha, ha ha, at last we meet
For me this is really quite a treat
To meet Father Christmas face to face
And also within his very own place.

SANTA You nasty old witch, this is my cave and you
have no right to be in here. I order you to leave
immediately.

WITCH I have applied my magic potion
It's quite the most wonderful lotion
A hundred and fifty years maybe more
I've waited to come in through that door.
No longer will your custom live
When Santa has no gifts to colour
No squeals of delight on Christmas morning
No giggles and shrieks when day is dawning
SANTA Well that is where you are wrong, you
miserable hater of children. The good fairy Tinkerbell
has a magic spell and she will return all the gifts to
me and also awaken Rudolph from his deep sleep.

WITCH Oh no she won't.

SANTA Oh yes she will.

WITCH Oh no she won't.. (*etc*)

WITCH Ha ha! You know as well as me
Tinkerbell is ridiculously dithery
I can terrify her nearly right out of her wits
Why the sight of me just scares her to bits
Watch how her body shakes and her little knees tremble
When in front of her I care to assemble

SANTA You nasty woman. Anyway I don't need you
to tell me where the children's presents are being
kept. If they are somewhere in this cave I will surely

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

find them. Why I know it back to front, every nook and cranny, corridor and secret passageway.

WITCH The spell is such that though they are there
To you they've vanished into thin air.

(WITCH laughs. At this point SANTA CLAUS makes a quick search of the cave. The presents are visible to us, but it is as if he cannot see them. He calls out to the audience to see if they know where they are. WITCH sings chorus of SANTA CAN LOOK and SANTA replies with chorus of THIS OLD WITCH. TINKERBELL returns carrying a book of spells)

TINKERBELL *(brightly)* Santa all is well
Now it won't take a minute to find the spell!

WITCH At last, at last a treat for me
'Tis wee Tinkerbell that I see!

(WITCH chases TINKERBELL around the cave. They end on opposite sides, TINKERBELL's knees trembling uncontrollably)

WITCH *(rubbing her hands with glee)*
Watch her, watch her, tremble and die
And then I can make my fairy pie
On Christmas day she'll be a nice treat
For all the witches and goblins to eat.

SANTA Quick, Tinkerbell, your magic spell

TINKERBELL Oh Santa I don't feel very well
I'm a very scared fairy and frightened to death
But I'll utter a spell with my sweet fairy breath.
Rodeo...rodeo...rodeo...roo!

(COWBOY rushes in)

COWBOY Did she come through here?
Did she come through here?
I've lost my horse
A beautiful black mare.

SANTA *(with complete surprise)* Your horse?

COWBOY I've had this horse for that many years
I'm so sad that I could burst into tears

TINKERBELL *(laughing at her little mistake)*
Oops! Another week without wages
I never numbered the spell book pages

WITCH (*disingenuously*) Cowboy!

COWBOY Yes Witch?

WITCH May I hope you find your sweet horse
I'll expect a generous reward of course
If you tell me exactly what that will be
I'll mix up a potion to find her, you see.

TINKERBELL Don't do it cowboy I'm warning you
Your horse will end up a pot of horse stew

SANTA Tinkerbelle is right. The Witch is an evil woman.
She has taken the boys and girls presents from my
sleigh and hidden them without trace. If I can't find
and deliver them all Santa Claus will cease to exist
forever. Yes, I shall be out of a job and the
children will be so very disappointed. Cowboy, do
you think you could help us?

COWBOY Do without Christmas, is that what You say?
Oh, no you surely can't take that away

WITCH (*behind him, but into his ear*) Oh yes I
will I'll destroy it without trace
That'll put a broad smile on my face

COWBOY No church, no carols

No cards or holly

No laughing children, happy and jolly

No lovely roast turkey, so tasty and good

No chocolate and nuts and no Christmas pud.

WITCH That is exactly how I see my plan

You're a very amusing, observant young man

COWBOY Santa, I love Christmas as much as you do

I'll help you search for the presents too

(*SANTA, TINKERBELL and COWBOY search
the cave*).

WITCH Now I have a plan that fills me with joy

That'll serve to rid me of this smart cowboy

(*to Cowboy*) Come and chat with me a while

I like your Hoppalong Cassidy smile

Do you know how you could make my heart Melt?

If you were to remove that ugly gun belt.

COWBOY If we remove this belt of ours

We cowboys lose our special powers

I won't be able to make you shake

Scream and yell and quiver and quake

WITCH If I said that I'd tell you a thing or two

Then maybe you would find it easier to do

I'd give you Santa's presents, and of course

Tell you where you could find your horse.

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TINKERBELL Don't do it, Cowboy!

WITCH Do it, Cowboy.

TINKERBELL (*with audience*)
Don't do it Cowboy! Etc.

COWBOY Oh sweet, sweet Witch, so kind and fair
My gun belt I'll no longer wear
(*He drops the belt*)
Now tell me where my horse is sleeping
And I'll take the presents out of your keeping.

WITCH Ha, ha, you fell into my trap
You've dropped your guns and your magic strap
Did you think I'd tell you what you want to know?
(*Points to exit*) Now feeble cowboy homeward go!
(*COWBOY exits, shamefully*)

TINKERBELL Without the cowboy we have no resistance
I think we should seek some more fairy assistance.

SANTA You're right, Tinkerbell. Let's away as quickly
as we can. (*To WITCH*) Beware, we shall return soon.

(*Exit TINKERBELL and SANTA*)

WITCH They've all gone to Fairy City
To think I care? No Sir, not a bitty!

(*The WITCH begins to make herself at home
in the cave. RABBIT hops in*)

RABBIT Good afternoon! Can you please tell
me where I might find Santa Claus? He's normally
here in this cave. Hang on a minute, you look rather
familiar. I know. You're the Wicked Witch of the Woods.

WITCH Why, Rabbit, you're much cleverer than you look
And will taste all the sweeter when you cook

RABBIT Say, what do you call a fortune teller
that lives on the beach? A sandwich. Ha, ha, ha.

WITCH (*furious*) You can laugh at me you stupid hopper
But you'll laugh less loud when you're in the copper

RABBIT You'll have to catch me first and you
know you'll never do that alone. What are you doing
here anyway? This is Santa's cave.

WITCH Why you are here's more to the question
Very soon you'll only be indigestion

(CONTINUED)

(WITCH chases RABBIT around the stage,
without catching him)

RABBIT I came here to see Santa Claus and personally deliver to him my Christmas letter. I thought I might even take my present home to save him calling in on my burrow. He normally gets stuck in the ground when he does that.
(He places a sealed letter on the table).

WITCH (moving in on RABBIT)
Tell me Rabbit of your request
A pair of green trousers or a new check vest?

RABBIT Well, now that you ask me, I wanted a new watch. (Displays his watch) This one I have keeps running slow. No good for a rabbit like me. I like telling the time. It's great fun.

WITCH I've had news for rabbits, but to my delight Santa will no longer travel the night .
With the watch I'll see what I can do
In that department I have one or two

RABBIT (overcome) Oh wonderful Witch that's really most kind. I would like a nice shiny one that has a long chain so I can tuck it in my vest pocket when it's raining.

WITCH In a while my assistant will surely return
He'll make a present to you of the watch that you yearn

RABBIT I really don't know what to say. You are really most kind. Thank you so much. I'll hop back later and see your assistant. (Turns to go) Oh, and would you please pass my regards to Santa. Bye bye for now.

WITCH When Rabbit returns the pot will be ready
I will be hungry and so will be Freddie
Hark I hear someone approaching
Maybe a fairy ripe for poaching.
(WITCH hides, ready to swoop. Then FREDDIE the Goblin enters)

WITCH What took you so long? I've been here for an age
I've a good mind to lock you up in a cage

FREDDIE Mercy, dear Witch, I'm your humble slave
I rather like this spiffing, magical cave

WITCH This is my new home and here we will stay
Father Christmas left here today
No more festivities at Christmas time

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

From this day on the cave is
mine!

*(Witch sings SANTA CAN LOOK then races around in a
frenzy of happiness)*

FREDDIE From all accounts this place is rave
I can't wait to play hide and seek in this cave!
(TINKERBELL crawls along the floor unnoticed and
places a wrapped present on the table. She exits, still
unseen)

WITCH Boiling cauldrons, what's this I see?
A Christmas package addressed to me.
*(She rips the paper off to find a hand mirror. She
looks in it, and screams)*
Is this a joke? What do you think you're doing?
My face is a hideous sight for viewing.

FREDDIE Oh Wicked Witch would I do such a thing?
I never brought that parcel in.

WITCH Santa must have sent that present to me
Only he knew where I would be
Anyway I'm starving so ring that bell
Summon up dinner and order well.

*(WITCH and FREDDIE sit at the table. FREDDIE
rings the bell. A WAITRESS rushes in with pad and
pencil to take their order.)*

WITCH I know that I'm a total beginner
But I feel like ordering a proper Christmas dinner
I want a lot and I want it quick
And I'll boil you alive if it makes me sick.

WAITRESS I recommend the turkey for the first course
And you'll have to try my cranberry sauce

FREDDIE I've always rather fancied some of those peas
Those which are cooked with mint and make you sneeze

WAITRESS Roast potatoes and a choice of greens?
Brussels sprouts or rubber beans?

FREDDIE Oh Brussels sprouts will do just fine
All washed down with a glass of wine

WITCH I was told the turkey was filled with stuffing
I'll try a helping to check they're not bluffing

(WAITRESS moves around the table while FREDDIE and WITCH watch closely, knives and forks at the ready)

WAITRESS There are in stuffings a lot of varieties
So may I recommend you try a few of these?
Chestnut, sage, parsley and thyme
Sausage meat flavoured with lemon and lime

FREDDIE I'd like some turnips and a piece of roast
Pumpkin
And a large loaf of bread to soak the gravy in

WITCH After that how about Christmas pudding
The one with holly and a silver coin stuck in

FREDDIE Then Christmas cake, one piece will do
With marzipan and sugar icing too

WAITRESS May I suggest some home baked mince pies
Sprinkled with sugar. A treat for your eyes!

WITCH A coca cola will do for my thirst
In fact I order you to bring me one first

WAITRESS I'll go and cook this and be back in a
Tick
I'll sure do my best to be very quick

FREDDIE I almost can't wait for this meal to arrive
I've already prepared my fork and knife
*(The WAITRESS rushes away. FREDDIE plays with his
knife and fork, banging it on the table. A DUSTBIN
shuffles in)*

DUSTBIN *(happily)* Hello Wicked Witch, how do you do?
I hope I can be of service to you
As you can see I'm a very fine dustbin
And from now on I'm yours to put your rubbish in.
(shuffles forward and sings I'M A LITTLE DUSTBIN).

DUSTBIN I'll tell you my secret, girls and boys
I'm here to recover all of the toys
Once I have won the Witch's affection
I'll clean up the cave section by section
She'll throw in the gifts sooner or later
Because she is a Christmas present hater
And all the parcels that she has hid
Will end up safely under my lid.

*(DUSTBIN starts to search the cave. WITCH rises
from the table, watching him as he goes)*

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WITCH (*angrily*) Dustbin, stop rummaging around in
The clutter
Or I'll put you straight back into the gutter

DUSTBIN Oh Wicked Witch don't get cross with me
I'm only trying to please, can't you see?
I'll clean up this cave as if it was new
That's what we dustbins are trained to do.
(*The DUSTBIN collects paper, stuffing it into his
black garbage sack singing I'M A LITTLE DUSTBIN*).

FREDDIE You know, Wicked Witch, its Christmas time
So can't you make this fine dustbin mine?
He'll make a good drum to beat on all day
That'll keep other devils and demons away.

(*FREDDIE raps out a quick drum roll with his knife
and fork*)

DUSTBIN (*horrified*) Hit me all day? What a thing to do!
I'll end up surely all black and blue.

WITCH (*snatching FREDDIE's drumsticks*)
You'll do no such thing, Freddie, For Witch's sake
Drumbeats give me an awful headache.

DUSTBIN Thank Goodness for that, it was Heaven sent
For a moment I thought I'd be battered and bent

WITCH (*patting DUSTBIN*) This bin is my own, I'll
Treat it with care
I have good use for a dustbin in here.

DUSTBIN Oh thank you kind Witch, what a woman of taste
Now let me return to collecting your waste
(*Resumes his collection*)

WITCH Gathering rubbish I did not acquire you for
I throw all my garbage on the floor
Instead a great big cooking pot
Where I can get the water boiling hot
Nice and deep to cook fairies in
A tight-fitting lid to lock the flavours in.

DUSTBIN Mercy Witch, You'll destroy my paint
And if I get hot I will surely faint

WITCH You wanted to be of service to me
Now come over here where I want you to be
(*DUSTBIN obliges, rubbing his eyes in sorrow*)

FREDDIE Talking food, I think I will starve

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If I don't get that turkey to carve
(Enter RABBIT, excitedly)

RABBIT Hello! Am I too early dear Witch to collect my present? (*Noticing FREDDIE*) I say, is this your assistant? (*to FREDDIE*) How do you do? My name is Rabbit. (*Brightly*) Can I have my watch please?

WITCH I asked Rabbit to join our feast today
Please listen to me Freddie and do as I say
Fetch some water and fill the dustbin
Then boil it up and chuck some herbs in
(*FREDDIE rises in readiness*)

RABBIT A feast? Well, that's very kind of you I must say. I don't want to put you to any trouble though.

FREDDIE Oh, it's no trouble to us I assure of that
Last week I made delicious pickled cat
I went to college to learn how to cook

I've got a diploma if you want to take a look

RABBIT (*moving next to FREDDIE*) Well I say!

Could I please? I've never seen a real diploma before.
You must be awfully clever, Freddie.

FREDDIE I'm proud of that certificate, really I am
I can braise spiders and make cobweb jam

WITCH (*ringing the bell*) Where's my coke?

If I don't get it soon I will surely choke.

(*DUSTBIN looks sad*)

RABBIT Oh Freddie I do so love meeting clever people. They are such fun. So what are you going to cook for us today in that lovely big dustbin? It must be a very large meal indeed.

FREDDIE A nice big rabbit stew

With nuts, flowers and fresh herbs too

(*At this point he throws some flowers, a handful of nuts and some bay leaves in to the DUSTBIN*)

DUSTBIN It seems she meant what she said to me
A cooking pot is what I'll be

(*DUSTBIN starts to cry*)

RABBIT My word, that does sound superb. Hey, Freddie, I've got a terrific rabbit joke. What do you give a rabbit when it's sick? A hop - eration.

FREDDIE I do so love jokes, can you remember another? I'd like to tell them to my brother.

RABBIT (*proudly*) Oh I know absolutely zillions. I'm excellent at making up jokes. How is a dog like a tree?

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They both have a bark. Ha, ha, ha. Tell you what, Freddie. Tomorrow I'll bring you in my book of jokes.

FREDDIE I don't suppose you could tell me just one more Because you'll be cooked in the stew by half past four.

RABBIT (*enthusiastically*) Of course I can. Anything to oblige, Freddie. Now let me see. What has three ears and(*His fate suddenly dawns on him*) Oh cripes!!

TINKERBELL and SANTA enter carrying plates of food from which they serve

WITCH Aha! Dinner's arrived and it smells delicious Such a wonderful assortment of Christmas dishes.

All the things that normal folk eat
And I must say it really does look a treat.

DUSTBIN Let's hope this delays the awful ordeal

RABBIT You can't imagine, Bin, how relieved I feel
(*TINKERBELL drops a spoon*)

WITCH You clumsy urchin, don't ruin my table
I'll give you the sack if I find you not able
Why, I know those knees and the way they shake
Me thinks my waitress is a bit of a fake

I see 'tis none but the fair Tinkerbelle
And now I look closely, 'tis Santa as well.
(*TINKERBELL drops her tray and darts away*)

TINKERBELL A fairy's wing and a fairy's charm
A wand outstretched on a fairy's arm
A spell that only a fairy knows
And this is how the magic goes:

Ruspa..ruspa...ruspapatootoo
(*COWBOY rushes in blazing his guns*)

COWBOY I've come to win back Santa's cave
And this time I'll be very brave
They fear me now all over the land
Every tribe and every band
The Witch no longer will rule with fear
Because Hoppalong Cassidy is always near
(*behind his hand*) No woman can put up a guard
With my new belt there's none as hard

(*WITCH rushes from him scared to death. COWBOY aims his gun and sings THIS OLD WITCH*)

COWBOY Halt or I'll shoot and destroy you forever
No witch is that fast and no witch is that clever

RABBIT (*running to DUSTBIN*) Oh Dustbin, could I possibly hide behind you? I'm a trifle nervous of bullets because I've heard that they can hurt you.

DUSTBIN Of course I'd be happy to be your protection

(MORE)

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For you I have a growing affection
 Shelter behind me if you have to
 I'll make sure the bullets don't penetrate through.

WITCH Do you really think I'm that easy to scare
 With your guns and bullets and heart with no fear?
 If you shoot me and bury me in the ground
 Dear Santa's presents will never be found
 Then he will fail to exist, so you see
 You can't frighten me that easily
 (*SANTA pats COWBOY on the back*)

SANTA I fear she's right, Cowboy. There is
 absolutely nothing we can do but hope that some
 wonderful spell will free us all, and save Christmas.
 Maybe we shall have to wait a hundred years or more.
 TINKERBELL Wait, wait another inspiration
 Or is it a figment of my imagination?
 Another spell has come to pass
 Maybe it's the one we want at last.
 Tuppalilapee!

*(The lights come up, indicating that the presents
 have been uncovered. A burst of excitement from all
 but FREDDIE and WICKED WITCH. SANTA rushes over
 and cocks his ear toward RUDOLPH's stable).*

SANTA Tinkerbelle, thank goodness you remembered
 the spell. Listen, even Rudolph has stopped snoring
 next door. He must be awake now.

COWBOY Well doggone, I can hardly believe
 This miracle on Christmas Eve

DUSTBIN Thank goodness I didn't end up on the boil
 With my bottom smothered in cooking oil!

RABBIT Thank heavens I didn't end up in the stew. That
 would have been a pretty awful way to spend Christmas.

(RABBIT and DUSTBIN dance)

FREDDIE I say, this is all rather exciting
 I'm beginning to find Christmas rather inviting

*WITCH moves upstage to far side as SANTA joins in
 the dancing. FREDDIE looks on, enthralled.*

FREDDIE So many gifts, and wrapped so beautifully
 I wonder if they'd have one for me.
 (*The WITCH shrieks and the dancing stops. They all turn
 to face her*)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WITCH You think you're all clever, but you're not
 I've surrounded this cave with all the spells I've got
 Unless you can get me out of that door
 Christmas will cease to exist any more.

SANTA Tinkerbell, what are we going to do now? We still
 have to get the Wicked Witch out of my cave.

COWBOY I'll shoot at her with my fearsome
 gun Then stand and watch the Wicked Witch
 run

WITCH Your bullets will just bounce off my chest
 I am wearing you see a bullet-proof vest
 I'll catch the others with my hands
 No matter where the bullet lands
 DUSTBIN Maybe she'll feel at home in me
 That's where all the rubbish should be
 Then you can put me out the back door
 And the Wicked Witch will exist no more
(DUSTBIN approaches, but WITCH sends him running back)
 RABBIT I could tickle her toes, and tell her jokes so
 she'd laugh herself weak and powerless.

*(He rushes to the WITCH and tickles her feet. She
 screeches pleasurably)*

TINKERBELL Wait! I know a way to make her flee To save
 Christmas, and make us all once again free Children
 must sing us a carol joyfully Then chatter and call out
 to her merrily The Wicked Witch can't stand the noise
 Of happy little girls and boys
*(In her excitement TINKERBELL catches Cowboy's rear
 with her wand. He leaps in the air)*

COWBOY Tinkerbell, watch where you point your stick You
 know you could make me feel very sick

SANTA Tinkerbell, I think that's a wonderful idea.
 Ingenious! Fantastic! You're a very clever little fairy.
(TINKERBELL becomes coy)

WITCH Tinkerbell, I agree with all that you say
 Children's laughter and singing would scare me away But
 you stupid fairy, where on earth would you find Boys
 and girls of that playful kind Happy youngsters, and
 also so near To sing a carol into my ear Why, there are
 no children around To utter this sweet Christmas sound.
(TINKERBELL points her wand at the audience)

TINKERBELL Out there are children of all varieties How
 can you possibly deny the needs of these? *(Sings IF
 YOU'RE HAPPY)*

WITCH *(searching darkness)* Well I can't see any
 children out there Plenty of seats but the seats are
 all bare Your little plan is no longer good So leave my
 cave and go back to the wood.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DUSTBIN Well I can see them, and Rabbit can too The only one who can't, Wicked Witch, is you. (*RABBIT nods in agreement*)

SANTA That's right Dustbin, we can all see the children except for the Wicked Witch.

TINKERBELL what you say Witch is quite ridiculous There are plenty of wonderful children in front of us Hear them sing, listen, do, A Christmas carol just for you. (*TINKERBELL gets the audience to sing. During the singing WITCH holds her ears agonising over the joyful sounds*)

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lays down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

WITCH (*fiercely*) Stop that singing for Witch's sake
Or my cold little heart will surely break!

COWBOY Do you really want us to cry for you
After the horrible nasty things that you do.

TINKERBELL (*to audience*) Now what I need are
some volunteers

To come up on stage with all of us here

The children must be very brave

And frighten the Witch from Santa's cave.

(*TINKERBELL helps children out of the audience and on to the stage. SANTA hands each child a present and sits them on his knee. The WITCH is quite obviously distressed at this. She drops her head in her hands.*

COWBOY takes this opportunity to rush up behind her and tie her with his lasso)

(*WITCH struggles, but can't get away*)

WITCH Cowboy what are you trying to do

Immediately release me from this lasso

COWBOY I'll untie you Witch, you need not fear

But only a million miles from here

DUSTBIN Cowboy what about my idea?

Open my lid and drop her in here

WITCH How could you make me live in a dustbin?

That's where people put all their rubbish in.

RABBIT We could always bury her under the ground
so that she couldn't utter any more of her wicked
spells.

(*TINKERBELL waves her wand recklessly. COWBOY Looks momentarily worried*)

TINKERBELL She could fly on her broomstick

Somewhere far

Maybe the moon, or a faraway star!

SANTA Well now that the Wicked Witch has been
caught and bound and the presents have been recovered,
I think we should all have a bit of a Christmas party
amongst ourselves.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FREDDIE (*coming downstage to audience*)
 Oh dear, what on earth will happen to me?
 I used to live with the Witch you see
 WITCH Freddie you will always stay as my slave
 Even when we leave this pine-smelling cave
 RABBIT Why don't you stay with me? It would
 make me very happy. I rather like you Freddie, even
 though you were going to cook and eat me.
 FREDDIE Oh Rabbit, could I please live with your
 Folks?
 I'd be ever so good and I'd laugh at your jokes.
 DUSTBIN That's the spirit that Christmas lends
 I do like it when two people make friends.
 WITCH (*struggling*) I'll hear nothing of this, you
 ungrateful wretch
 You'll stay with me as the slave of the Witch
 COWBOY Another sound and you'll stay tied for ever more
 Not to be released 'til you're five hundred and four

RABBIT Freddie, I should very much like you as my new
 friend. You can live with my folks and me. I will teach
 you all my terrific jokes and how to run very fast so
 you can't ever be caught. However, you will have to
 agree to one thing.
 FREDDIE Just name what you want and what I must do
 Dear Rabbit to be best friends with you
 RABBIT Well first you must like jolly old Christmas.
 It really is the most special time of the year. Tops!
 FREDDIE Now that the Witch's spell is broken
 My love of Christmas has awoken.
 SANTA That's wonderful Freddie. Christmas is such fun.
 I shall go and wrap you a present.
 RABBIT And the other thing is you shouldn't eat
 Rabbit. That makes my family very nervous indeed.
 FREDDIE I promise to never eat rabbits again
 Now that I can live with you in your den
 RABBIT Knock, knock
 DUSTBIN Who's there?
 RABBIT Santa Ana
 DUSTBIN Santa Ana who?
 RABBIT Santa Ana gonna buy you anything if you
 don't believe in him.
 (*SANTA laughs heartily*)
 TINKERBELL Everybody. What do fairies eat for
 their tea? Fairy cakes.
 FREDDIE What does a modern witch ride on? A
 broom broom stick.
 COWBOY What do you get if you plant a gun? Lots
 of little shoots.
 DUSTBIN A man went to his doctor and said 'Doctor
 I fell like a dustbin. The Doctor said 'Rubbish!'
 SANTA A little boy said to me recently, I want a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

choo-choo for Christmas. What? I asked. He said A choo-choo. So I said Bless You! (*Laughs*) Well, children, I am not much good at jokes - I leave that sort of thing to my friend Rabbit. (*RABBIT goes coy*) However I do know a lot about Christmas. Why of course I do ... I am Father Christmas! (*Chuckles*) And Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. Don't you think so? (*Audience replies*) Now I don't want you to go and eat too much turkey and pudding, and I do want you to be kind to Mum and Dad because they like to enjoy 'Christmas too. Oh yes, and always remember to share your toys with the girls and boys who don't have as many new things as you do. (*Looks at watch*) Anyway, it's high time I got Rudolph out of his stable and hurried along. A very, very Merry Christmas to one and all.

(They sing WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS and wave goodbye to the audience)

(cont'd)

SONGS

SANTA CAN LOOK (tune Jimmy Crack Corn) Santa can look but he won't see The presents that are hidden from all but me The only one who can break the spell Is withery, dithery Tinkerbelle

I'M A LITTLE DUSTBIN (tune I'm a Little Tea Pot) I'm a little dustbin, round and black Here is my front and here is my back When the rubbish builds up then I sing Lift my lid and throw it in

TEN LITTLE WITCHES (tune Ten Little Indians) One little, two little, three little witches, Four little, five little, six little witches, Seven little, eight little nine little witches, All under one roof.

IF YOU'RE HAPPY (tune If You're Happy) If you're happy to have Christmas clap your hands If you're happy to have Christmas clap your hands If you're happy and you show it Then the witch will surely know it If you're happy to have Christmas clap your hands.

THIS OLD WITCH (tune This Old Man) This old witch, she's no good She has never understood That Christmas is a time of happiness and joy For every single girl and boy

SANTA CAN LOOK (tune Jimmy Crack Corn) Santa can look but he won't see The presents that are hidden from all but me The only one who can break the spell Is withery, dithery Tinkerbelle

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