

THE ENCHANTED BOOKSHOP

ACT ONE

Scene One

1 AT RISE: MARGIE reads *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*. BOMBALURINA lies in her cat bed, listening contentedly.

MARGIE: Listen, Bombalurina! Here comes the exciting part! (*Acts out the story as she reads.*) “At last Little John struck like a flash, and—rap!—the Tanner met the blow and turned it aside, and then
5 smote back at Little John, who also turned the blow, and so this mighty battle began.”

MOM: (*ENTERS RIGHT with TIMMY, who plays a game on his phone. MARGIE doesn't notice them.*) Excuse me.

10 **MARGIE:** (*Reads.*) “Then up and down and back and forth they trod, the blows falling so thick and fast that, at a distance, one would have thought that half a score of men were fighting.”

MOM: I said, excuse me.

MARGIE: (*Reads.*) “Thus they fought for nigh a half an hour, until the
15 ground was all plowed up with the digging of their heels, and their breathing grew labored like the ox in the furrow—” (*MOM taps her on the shoulder.*) Aaah! (*Startled, throws up her hands, causing the book to fly across the room.*)

MOM: I'd like some help, please.

20 **MARGIE:** (*Flustered.*) What? Oh, uh, yes! Of course! You want some help! And I'm going to help you! Just as soon as I get my book! (*Rushes over to the book. After checking to make sure it's okay, sets it on the counter.*) Welcome to A Likely Story. How can I help you this evening?

25 **MOM:** I'm here to buy a book for my son, Timmy.

MARGIE: Oh! Isn't that exciting! What kind of books do you like, Timmy? Timmy?

MOM: Timmy, she's asking you a question.

TIMMY: (*Continues playing with his phone.*) I hate books.

30 **MARGIE:** Ha ha! Surely you don't mean that. Don't you have a favorite book at home?

MOM: Timmy doesn't have any books.

MARGIE: No books at all?

MOM: We always meant to buy him one, but we could never make the
35 commitment. Books take up so much room, you know?

MARGIE: Yes, well, I'm sure I can find something he'll like. (*Scans the bookshelves.*)

- 1 **MOM:** We wouldn't be here at all except his teacher is making him write a book report.
- MARGIE:** *(To TIMMY.)* Ooh, how about a mystery? Or maybe science fiction. Wait. I'd bet you'd love a heartwarming animal story!
- 5 **TIMMY:** *(To phone.)* Take that! And that!
- MOM:** I don't know why he has to write a book report. I mean, books are so old-fashioned.
- MARGIE:** Oh, but they're not! Books are wonderful! They strengthen your vocabulary! They fuel your imagination! They teach you about
10 other times and other cultures!
- MOM:** What do you mean?
- MARGIE:** *(Picks up the book from the counter.)* Well, take this book, for example. Robin Hood. It's about these highway robbers in medieval England...
- 15 **MOM:** Oh, no. We would never let Timmy read a book like that. We're very careful about what we expose him to.
- TIMMY:** *(To phone.)* Blam! Blam! Blam!
- MARGIE:** *(Pulls a book from the shelf.)* Okay. How about this one? *White Fang* by Jack London.
- 20 **MOM:** What's that? A book about dentistry?
- MARGIE:** No, it's about this dog named White Fang, see? And he lives in the Yukon, and he gets sold to an Indian named Grey Beaver, only because he's part wolf, the other dogs refuse to accept him. *(Acts out the story.)* And then he gets into this fight with a dog
25 named Cherokee. They pounce at each other, slashing and biting, tearing and clawing, until Cherokee manages to close his jaws over White Fang's throat. White Fang tries to shake him off, but he doesn't have the strength and he stumbles to the ground, exhausted... *(On the floor now, looks up at MOM for approval.)*
- 30 **MOM:** Sounds violent.
- TIMMY:** *(To his phone.)* Die, ogre, die!
- MARGIE:** *(Scrambles to her feet.)* Oh, no. It's really a very good book.
- MOM:** How much is it?
- MARGIE:** Three dollars.
- 35 **MOM:** I don't know. That seems like an awful lot of money.
- MARGIE:** Would you buy it for two dollars?
- MOM:** Come on, Timmy. Let's see what they have at the library. *(Starts to leave with TIMMY.)*
- MARGIE:** No, no! Please, just take it! *(Holds out the book.)*
- 40 **MOM:** You're giving us the book?



1 **MARGIE:** Sure. Why not?

MOM: (*Reluctant, takes the book. To TIMMY.*) I guess if you don't like it, we can always sell it online.

TIMMY: (*To his phone.*) Yay! Another five thousand points! (*EXITS RIGHT with MOM. BOMBALURINA gives MARGIE a dubious look.*)

MARGIE: Don't look at me like that, Bombalurina. I had to give it to them. I can't imagine a child not owning a book. (*Peers OFF RIGHT.*) Oh, well. Might as well close up shop. It doesn't look like we're going to get any more customers tonight. (*Locks the front door.*)
10 Well, Bombalurina? Are you going to come up to the apartment with me, or are you going to stay down here and guard against burglars? (*Alarmed, BOMBALURINA jumps out of bed and follows her.*) I thought so. You wouldn't be much help against burglars anyway.

BOMBALURINA: (*Stops to put her paws on her hips.*) Meow!
15 (*MARGIE EXITS LEFT. BOMBALURINA hurries after her. LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.*)

End of Scene One

ACT ONE

Scene Two

LIGHTS UP: That night.

ROBIN: (*ENTERS UPSTAGE through the hidden EXIT behind the counter. Staggered dizzily.*) Odds bodkins! It feels as though the whole world
20 is spinning...

TOM: (*ENTERS UPSTAGE.*) What's the matter, old man? Did you swing into a tree again?

ROBIN: No. Miss Margie threw my book. I swear, every time she reads me, I end up flying across the room.

25 **SHERLOCK:** (*ENTERS UPSTAGE.*) I thought you enjoyed flying, my good man.

ROBIN: I do. It's the landing I'm not so fond of. (*TOTO ENTERS UPSTAGE, barking.*)

DOROTHY: (*ENTERS UPSTAGE, following TOTO.*) Toto, you've got to be quiet! You could wake up Miss Margie!

30 **HEIDI:** (*ENTERS UPSTAGE.*) Vorse yet, you could vake up zat cat, Bamboozle-o-mania!

SHERLOCK: Her name is pronounced Bombalurina, Heidi.

HEIDI: Zat's vat I said, Bamboozle-o-mania!

DOROTHY: What's the matter with him? (*Indicates ROBIN.*)

35 **SHERLOCK:** I'm afraid he's suffered a traumatic injury to his cranium.

HEIDI: Mein Himmel! I can't undershtand a vord he says!

TOM: He means he took a blow to the noggin.

- 1 **ROBIN:** Miss Margie tossed me across the room again.
DOROTHY: Oh, please. You don't know what tossing is until you've been tossed by a tornado!
HEIDI: Vat means zis vord, tornado?
- 5 **POLLYANNA:** (*ENTERS UPSTAGE.*) Ooh! Ooh! Let me explain it! A tornado is this great rush of wind that sounds like a freight train and goes around and around like a carnival ride!
DOROTHY: You know something, Pollyanna? Only you could make a tornado sound fun.
- 10 **HEIDI:** Did anyyun see vat book vas taken?
SHERLOCK: I believe it was *White Fang* by Jack London.
TOM: Oh, no! Not White Fang! I'm gonna miss that ol' mutt!
DOROTHY: Not me! I'm glad he's gone. He used to chase Toto all around the bookshop! (*TOTO growls.*)
- 15 **ROBIN:** And he was always chewing on my boots!
POLLYANNA: Well, look on the bright side! At least Miss Margie sold another book!
SHERLOCK: She didn't sell the book, Pollyanna. She gave it away.
TOM: Miss Margie's got to stop doin' that.
- 20 **DOROTHY:** I know. If business doesn't pick up soon, she's going to have to close the bookshop.
HEIDI: Ach du lieber! Vat vill happen to us?
ROBIN: Who cares what happens to us? It's Miss Margie I'm worried about.
- 25 **TOM:** Yeah. This shop is her life.
DOROTHY: I just wish we could help.
POLLYANNA: Hey, I have an idea! Why don't we raise some money for her by opening a lemonade stand?
SHERLOCK: I'm afraid we can't, Pollyanna. That would violate the two
- 30 rules that were established for us by the Book Fairy.
DOROTHY: Oh, no! You said it again!
SHERLOCK: Said what? What do you mean?
BOOK FAIRY: (*ENTERS UPSTAGE with a flourish.*) Did somebody call my name?
- 35 **BOOK CHARACTERS:** (*Unenthusiastic.*) Hello, Book Fairy.
BOOK FAIRY: Tom, I didn't hear your greeting.
TOM: (*Downright glum.*) Hello, Book Fairy.
BOOK FAIRY: That's better. Now what do you need my assistance with?

- 1 **POLLYANNA:** No assistance, Book Fairy! Mr. Holmes was just explaining to me why we can't open a lemonade stand, only he hadn't gotten to that part yet.
- BOOK FAIRY:** A lemonade stand? Oh, no, no, no, no! That's simply out
5 of the question! You know the rules I laid down for you when I gave you the gift of life.
- BOOK CHARACTERS:** Yes, Book Fairy.
- BOOK FAIRY:** Well, maybe we should go over them one more time—
- ROBIN:** (*To SHERLOCK.*) You had to open your big mouth.
- 10 **BOOK FAIRY:** Can anyone tell me the first rule?
- POLLYANNA:** (*Raises her hand.*) Ooh! Ooh! I can! I can!
- BOOK FAIRY:** Yes, Pollyanna?
- POLLYANNA:** Rule number one—No leaving the bookshop!
- BOOK FAIRY:** Actually, you're not allowed to leave the building. Miss
15 Margie's apartment is right upstairs, and while I don't recommend going up there, it is fair territory.
- POLLYANNA:** Good to know, Book Fairy!
- BOOK FAIRY:** And the second rule? Anyone?
- POLLYANNA:** (*Raises her hand.*) Ooh! Ooh! Call on me! Call on me!
- 20 **BOOK FAIRY:** Anyone else? Please? (*SHERLOCK raises his hand.*) Yes, you, Mr. Holmes?
- SHERLOCK:** Rule number two—We must never permit ourselves to be seen or in any way perceived by human beings.
- BOOK FAIRY:** A little wordy, but correct.
- 25 **TOM:** Rules are dumb.
- HEIDI:** But, Thomas, if it weren't for ze rules, ve wouldn't be here at all.
- BOOK FAIRY:** That's right, Heidi. You've got to realize I went way out on a limb for you guys. I mean, book characters are supposed to come to life the normal way—by being read.
- 30 **ROBIN:** Here it comes...
- BOOK FAIRY:** But when I realized that was unlikely to happen here, I decided to step in.
- DOROTHY:** We know, Book Fairy, and we're all very grateful. But can't you make an exception just this once?
- 35 **BOOK FAIRY:** Absolutely not! I mean, can you imagine what chaos it would cause if the humans saw you cavorting around? No, I have to insist. If you break either of the two rules, you'll disappear into your books forever.
- TOM:** How's that supposed to work?

1 **BOOK FAIRY:** I don't know, but it won't be good. Now, if you'll please excuse me, I need to go look for Scarlett O'Hara. I understand she's missing.

HEIDI: Oh, no! Vat happened to her?

5 **BOOK FAIRY:** What do you think? She's gone with the wind. (*EXITS UPSTAGE. BOMBALURINA ENTERS LEFT, creeps toward ROBIN.*)

TOM: Can you believe that Book Fairy? She sounds like an old schoolmarm!

POLLYANNA: I know! Isn't she wonderful? (*Like a flash, BOMBALURINA grabs ROBIN'S hat and runs OFF.*)

10 **ROBIN:** Stop, thief!

TOM: (*Chases after BOMBALURINA, but misses her.*) Sorry, Mr. Hood. I thought I had her.

HEIDI: Was ist los? (*German pronunciation: "Vas ist los?"*)

ROBIN: Was ist los? This is los! I mean, this is the matter! (*Points at his head.*) That foul feline stole my hat!

DOROTHY: Wait a minute. Don't you steal from the rich?

ROBIN: What? Oh, uh, sure. But that's different. I give everything I steal to the poor.

DOROTHY: So it's okay to steal as long as you don't keep the stuff for yourself?

ROBIN: Yes! Well, not exactly. I mean, it's complicated.

DOROTHY: Not as complicated as you make it out to be.

TOM: I wouldn't talk, Dorothy. Didn't you swipe the wicked witch's shoes?

DOROTHY: What? No! The good witch gave them to me!

25 **TOM:** Oh. So it's okay to keep somethin' that was swiped as long as somebody else did the swipin'?

DOROTHY: If the person's dead, it's not swiping! (*Continues bickering with TOM. Soon, EVERYONE but POLLYANNA joins in.*)

POLLYANNA: (*Shouts.*) Quiet! (*ALL stop and stare at her, stunned by the outburst. Takes a moment to compose herself.*) Look, I'm glad you're all so passionate about this subject, but I think you're forgetting something.

ROBIN: My hat?

POLLYANNA: No! We need to figure out a way to save the store!

35 **TOM:** Oh, yeah.

ROBIN: Now I remember.

POLLYANNA: So what do you think? How can we help? (*EVERYONE looks at each other, then they all start bickering again. Throws up her hands in defeat.*) Why do I even try? (*BLACKOUT.*)

End of Scene Two



1 in. ~~(Puts the books away. She yawns.) Oh, Bombalurina! I'm so tired! Your snoring kept waking me up last night. Would you mind sleeping down here tonight?~~

BOMBALURINA: ~~(Frantically shakes her head.) Meow! Meow!~~

5 **MARGIE:** ~~Oh, you'll be fine. It's a lot quieter down here anyway. I'll even get your favorite pillow for you. (EXITS LEFT. BOMBALURINA turns to AUDIENCE and heaves a huge sigh. LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.)~~

~~End of Scene Three~~

ACT ONE

Scene Four

LIGHTS UP: That night. BOMBALURINA sleeps in her bed, snoring. Robin's hat is by her side. TOM and ROBIN creep IN from the hidden EXIT behind the counter. TOM has a slingshot. ROBIN has a bow with an arrow.

10 **ROBIN:** Have you spotted the villain yet, lad?

TOM: Sure have! She's sawin' logs somethin' fierce!

ROBIN: Very good. Let us advance quietly. We don't want to wake her. *(They creep toward BOMBALURINA. When they get close, they stop and aim their weapons.)* All right now. On the count of three. One. Two—

POLLYANNA: *(Bursts IN UPSTAGE.)* Hey, what are you up to? *(BOMBALURINA wakes up, screeches, grabs the hat and runs OFF LEFT. ROBIN is so startled he drops his arrow.)*

20 **TOM:** Confound it, Pollyanna! You done scared her off!

ROBIN: And just when we were about to spring our attack!

DOROTHY: *(ENTERS UPSTAGE with HEIDI and SHERLOCK.)* Don't tell me you were going to hurt that poor kitty!

TOM: *(Hides slingshot behind his back.)* What? Oh, uh, no! Of course not!

25 **ROBIN:** *(Hides bow behind his back.)* We wouldn't dream of it!

DOROTHY: Then why is there an arrow on the floor?

ROBIN: An arrow? What arrow?

DOROTHY: That arrow.

ROBIN: Fine. So maybe I did aim my bow at the beast. But I didn't mean to hurt her. I only wanted to take back what is rightfully mine.

HEIDI: You mean your silly hat?

ROBIN: It's not silly. I find it rather dashing.

DOROTHY: This from a guy who wears pajamas all day.

ROBIN: *(Picks up his arrow and notices the new book.)* Hallo!
35 What's this?

HEIDI: I sink zat's your arrow, Mr. Hood.

- 1 **ROBIN:** I don't mean the arrow. I mean this book. (*Removes the locked book from the bottom shelf.*) I've never laid eyes on it before.
- DOROTHY:** *1001 Vegetable Dishes Your Family Will Love?*
- HEIDI:** Sounds like a cookbook.
- 5 **POLLYANNA:** Open it up, Mr. Hood!
- ROBIN:** Alas! I wish I could, but the book has a lock on it.
- SHERLOCK:** What? Let me see that. (*ROBIN hands him the book.*) Well, that's rather peculiar. A lock is normally used to secure something of value.
- 10 **TOM:** Yuck! What's so valuable about some ol' vegetable recipes?
- SHERLOCK:** My point exactly. There must be more than recipes inside. A treasure map, perhaps. Or a secret message.
- POLLYANNA:** Now we have to open it!
- HEIDI:** But how? We don't have ze key.
- 15 **TOM:** If I had my pocketknife, I could bust it open!
- HEIDI:** It's a good thing you don't! You could hurt ze poor book!
- DOROTHY:** Tom, do you have anything else we could use?
- TOM:** Let me see. (*Removes the items one by one from his pockets and sets them on the counter.*) Three marbles. Two pennies. Some
- 20 string. A magnifyin' glass. And a dead beetle.
- HEIDI/POLLYANNA:** Ewww!
- SHERLOCK:** It doesn't take a detective to know that none of these items will be effective.
- DOROTHY:** What about you, Mr. Hood? Do you have anything in
- 25 your pockets?
- ROBIN:** I'm from the Middle Ages. I don't even know what a pocket is.
- SHERLOCK:** If I had a long thin piece of metal, I could fashion myself a lock pick.
- POLLYANNA:** I have a hairpin you could use! (*Removes a hairpin and*
- 30 *hands it to SHERLOCK.*)
- SHERLOCK:** Thank you, Pollyanna. This should prove most helpful. (*Unbends the hairpin and sticks one end into the lock.*)
- POLLYANNA:** Be careful now!
- HEIDI:** You don't want to ruin it!
- 35 **SHERLOCK:** I'm not going to ruin it. I'm just going to insert this end in here and— (*Jiggles the pick.*) Wait a moment. Perhaps if I insert it like this— (*Jiggles the pick.*) Oh, it's no use! We need someone with the right experience to pick this lock.
- POLLYANNA:** But who, Mr. Holmes? It's not like any of us are criminals.
- 40 (*ROBIN whistles innocently.*)

1 **SHERLOCK:** I do know one person who possesses this particular skill.
(*Goes to the hidden EXIT.*) Oh, Fagin!

DOROTHY: The pickpocket from Oliver Twist?

FAGIN: (*ENTERS UPSTAGE.*) I beg your pardon, my dear, but I'm much
5 more than a pickpocket. I'm a criminal extraordinaire!

SHERLOCK: Enough of your bluster, Fagin. I wouldn't have invited you
here at all except I have a lock that needs picking.

FAGIN: Oh, dear, dear, dear. Do you mean to say that even the great
Sherlock Holmes is in need of my felonious proclivities?

10 **SHERLOCK:** Just open the lock, would you?

FAGIN: Certainly I'll open it, but first you must agree to one
minor stipulation.

SHERLOCK: And what might that be?

FAGIN: I get half of whatever's inside.

15 **DOROTHY:** But Mr. Fagin, we don't even know what's in there!

TOM: I'll bet it's a treasure map! (*OTHERS turn to shush TOM.*)

FAGIN: (*Smiles.*) Then, I want half of the treasure, or you shan't reap
the benefit of my talents.

SHERLOCK: One quarter and only if the treasure can be easily divided.

20 **FAGIN:** What? You must take me for a fool!

SHERLOCK: (*Grabs FAGIN and calls OFFSTAGE.*) Oh, Mr. Fang! I have
the thief you've been searching for!

FAGIN: (*Tears himself away.*) Fine! Fine! I'll pick the lock, but I do so
under protest!

25 **ROBIN:** Do it any way you like. Just do it! (*FAGIN pulls out a lock pick
and starts to work on the lock.*)

POLLYANNA: Are you getting it? Are you getting it?

FAGIN: Silence, please. I must have absolute silence.

SHERLOCK: Criminals can be quite temperamental.

30 **FAGIN:** (*Works in silence for a moment.*) And so, as that great thief Ali
Baba said, "Open Sesame!" (*Opens the book to reveal the hidden
compartment inside. EVERYONE gasps.*)

DOROTHY: Why, it's not a book at all! It's a place to hide valuables!

FAGIN: (*Removes a diamond necklace from the book.*) And what a
35 valuable! A diamond necklace!

SHERLOCK: Hand it over, Fagin!

FAGIN: But you said I could have half!

SHERLOCK: I said a quarter and only if the item could be easily
divided. (*Grabs the necklace away.*) Clearly, this necklace cannot.

1 **FAGIN:** It's not fair, I say! Not fair! I did a dishonest day's work! I expect a dishonest day's pay!

SHERLOCK: Come, Robin. Help me get rid of this thief before he tries to steal something else.

5 **ROBIN:** For once, I'm glad I don't have any pockets to pick. (*Helps SHERLOCK hustle FAGIN toward the hidden EXIT.*)

FAGIN: (*Scoops TOM'S pennies off the counter as they go.*) Oh, woe is me! Woe is me! Always cheated out of my unfair share! (*SHERLOCK and ROBIN shove him OFFSTAGE.*)

10 **TOM:** (*Searches the counter.*) Hey! He swiped my pennies! (*EXITS UPSTAGE, going after FAGIN.*)

SHERLOCK: (*Examines the necklace.*) A curious thing indeed.

DOROTHY: Who hid it there, Mr. Holmes?

SHERLOCK: I can't say for certain. But I do know one thing. This

15 necklace was stolen.

POLLYANNA: Wow! What clue tipped you off?

DOROTHY: Did you find a suspicious hair inside the compartment?

HEIDI: Or a fingerprint on ze clasp?

SHERLOCK: Not at all. I saw a story about it on the news.

20 **ROBIN:** Alas! If Miss Margie gets caught with a stolen necklace, she'll be thrown in jail for sure!

DOROTHY: We have to warn her!

POLLYANNA: But how?

HEIDI: (*Points OFF DOWNSTAGE.*) Ach du lieber! Look! Sunlight is

25 coming srough ze vindow!

POLLYANNA: Hurry! We have to clean this place up!

SHERLOCK: We don't have time. Miss Margie will be coming down the stairs soon.

HEIDI: Zat's right! If she catches even a glimpse of us, ve vill all

30 be kaput!

POLLYANNA: But we made such a mess!

SHERLOCK: Leave it. When Miss Margie finds the necklace, she'll know what to do.

HEIDI: Come on! Ve have to shkedaddle! (*ALL EXIT UPSTAGE.*)

35 **LONG JOHN:** (*ENTERS UPSTAGE. To the parrot on his shoulder.*) Well, Captain Flint, it's about time those scalawags abandoned ship. Now we can see if they left any booty. (*Goes to the counter and picks up the necklace.*) Well, shiver me timbers! A necklace made of the finest diamonds! What do you think I should do with it,

40 Captain Flint? (*Puts his ear to the parrot's beak.*) A most excellent plan. Those scalawags will never miss it! (*Laughs evilly, pockets the necklace, and EXITS UPSTAGE. LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.*)

End of Scene Four