

RAPUNZEL AND THE RASCAL PRINCE

BY

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MUSIC AND LYRICS BY

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

SORREL - Rapunzel's Mother
GINGER - Rapunzel's Father
RAPUNZEL - their daughter
PRINCE RAPSCALLION - from very far away
Sir. STEPHEN SENTINEL - the Prince's Guardian
RAGWORT - A Witch
SAGE - An Owl
HYACINTH HORSERADISH - a Horticulturalist
ROSEMARY - an apprentice gardener [f]
PARSLEY - an apprentice gardener [m]
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OF VILLAGERS
FIRE-BREATHING WORM

DOUBLING:

SORREL/ROSEMARY
GINGER/PARSLEY/HEAD OF WORM
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL/SIR. STEPHEN
RAPUNZEL/VILLAGER #1
RAPSCALLION/VILLAGER #2

The cast size is eight - five men and three women.

There is a juvenile chorus who play six villagers and a fire-breathing worm.

Time: A long time ago

Place: England

1. PROLOGUE - FRONTCLOTH

At the end of the introductory music, SAGE, an owl, enters from Stage Right. His feathers are fine, his beak is sharp, his eyes twinkle behind his enormous glasses yet there is something very human about him.

SAGE

Not fairy bright with glittering wand,
Nor sparkling wing with gossamer hue,
I do no magic, yet I stand
For all that's good and troohoo.

There was, last night, a fiery blast
And all the crops were burned.
The herbs, the corn, the fruit blazed fast
And into cinders turned.

Yet stay, I twitter without rest
I'm not garden bird nor fowl
I bet by now you all have guessed
My hashtag's Sage the ...

He invites the audience to complete the rhyme

AUDIENCE

Owl!

***Music Cue 1a.
Chords of doom***

Chords of Doom as RAGWORT the witch appears from Stage Left.

RAGWORT

Poems suck, they make me sick
In fact they make me queasy.
If I were Queen I'd ban them quick
So talking would be ... Simple!!

RAGWORT

What are you doing here?

SAGE

Meeting the Council of Villagers to solve the village crisis.

RAGWORT

Oh dearie, dearie me! All your crops - scorched! No delicious Dill. No toothsome Tarragon. No beautiful Borage eh?

SAGE

Except for in your garden.

RAGWORT

My beautiful, beautiful garden!

SAGE

The only place toohoo have escaped. Suspicious!

RAGWORT

It only proves that I am the best gardener and not that hideous, horrible harridan Hyacinth Horseradish. I should have been made the village Gardener-in-Chief and awarded the Order of the Golden Trowel. Not her.

SAGE

But to be awarded the Order you must be generous and kind. You're bad through and through. You're selfish and greedy. That's why no-one likes yoohoo and you're all on your own.

RAGWORT

Oh chuck in the towel, owl! I'll find someone who'll love me because I'm so generous and kind. I'll prove you wrong.

She moves forward to share with the audience

The Golden Trowel makes you gardener to kings and queens. She who possesses it will become the most sought after gardener in the whole land and be rich, rich, rich. It must be mine, mine, all mine. Now to find someone to love me.

She looks into the audience.

You? Do you like me? How about you? Or you?

She will get no support

SAGE

Yoohoo must be less greedy and selfish. Why not start by sharing your luck with the rest of the poor villagers whose crops have been destroyed?

RAGWORT

Oh I weep!

SAGE

The herbs they grow to earn their living.

RAGWORT

I blubb!

SAGE

The corn they need to make their bread.

RAGWORT

I howl, owl!

SAGE

The froohoot they need to keep themselves healthy.

RAGWORT

Oh! I'm drowning in my own tears! Not!! They've only themselves to blame. Giving her the Golden Trowel! Well soon they'll have no money, no food and they'll all grow sick and die.

SAGE

What goes around, comes around
And when you are in need
Remember, crone, this thought profound.
Yoohoo'll suffer because of greed!

Music begins and RAGWORT looks offstage and sees the Council of Villagers approaching.

RAGWORT

Oh village people. Yuk! I'm off!

With which she starts to go, whispering so that SAGE can't hear

Oh scorching worm of mine! What a clever fire-breathing worm you are.

Worm Telepathy
cue

She moves off stopping just before she leaves the stage and addresses the audience. She picks out one member of the audience

Oh! Oh Oh! There you are! Your village just called. They're missing an idiot!

And she's gone

SAGE

Oh dear. That wasn't a very good start was it? *[No]*. She needs a good telling off. I've tried but she never listens to me. I wonder if yoohoo could help me tell her off? Could yoohoo? *[Yes]* Really? *[Yes]* Give her a good telling off? *[Yes]* Excellent. Well perhaps she would understand if everyone told her how awful she is. So if yoohoo hear anyone on stage say 'Oh such greed!' perhaps yoohoo could join in by shouting 'Greedy Weed!' at the top of your voices. I think that may work. Let's give it a go shall we? *[Yes]* OK then. I'll start speaking and yoohoo shout out 'Greedy Weed!' when yoohoo hear me say 'Oh such greed!'. Here we go. Do yoohoo know there's not a herb left growing in the village except in the witch's garden and she won't share? Oh such greed!

AUDIENCE

Greedy Weed!

SAGE

Yes well it will need to be louder than that. The kingdom needs to echo to the sound of how awful she is. Come on, here we go. She keeps all her crops to herself when she's got far more than she could possibly need. Oh such greed!

AUDIENCE

Greedy Weed!!

SAGE

A smidge better. But smidges aren't good enough. She needs to hear it wherever she happens to be. Let's try it one more time and this time really raise the roofoof. Oh dear, oh dear. What are we going to do about her? Oh such greed!

AUDIENCE

Greedy Weed!!!

SAGE

Yes indeed! Now that's more like it!! If yoohoo doohoo that every time perhaps she might begin to understand not to be so selfish and greedy. *Villagers entrance underscore*
Oh look! Here comes the Council of Villagers.

and the Council of Villagers enters ...

ACT ONE SCENE ONE - OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE HERB NURSERY

The Council of Villagers arrives. It includes SORREL and GINGER. They join SAGE on the stage and sing the Opening Song

2. The Stuff of Life

We were a very merry village
 With a very merry villagey community
 We farmed the land
 Sowed crops by hand
 And we danced on the green to the village band
 Fa la la la la la la
 Fa la la la la la la

But disaster's struck

LEADER

Yes disaster struck only just last night
 And now our crops are all scorched and burned
 Only Ragwort the witch's garden is unscathed, but she won't share
 Oh such greed – greedy weed – yes indeed
 What are we going to do to put the village things back right
 Because....

ALL

Herbs were our livelihood
 But now we can't make a living
 Herbs kept us strong and healthy
 There's nothing else that's more life giving
 So our only hope is that the witch will feel like giving
 Cos herbs are the stuff of life

VILLAGER #1

Think of what we've lost, and everything we once were

VILLAGER #2

We were always so happy in those good days of the harvest

ALL

We were a very merry village
 With a very merry villagey way of life
 Herbs gave us health
 Crops brought us wealth
 And we've never had to suffer from any ill-health
 Fa la la la la la la
 Fa la la la la la la

But disaster's struck

LEADER

Oh what a dilemma. Which is best? Should we make Ragwort Gardener-in-Chief? Then she might share her crops and we can eat again. Or should we stick with Hyacinth Horseradish who will have to create burn-proof crops ... because after all, Gardener-in-Chief must be kind and considerate and Ragwort is evil through and through.
 But then...

ALL

Herbs were our livelihood
And now we can't make a living
Herbs kept us strong and healthy
There's nothing else that's more life giving
So our only hope is that the witch will feel like giving
(Only in your dreams)
Cos herbs are the stuff of life
Fa la la la la

LEADER

I, the Leader of the Council of Villagers, decree that the said Council is now in session. Order! Order!

GINGER

Fish in tarragon sauce.

LEADER

What?

VILLAGER #1

Chicken with coriander for me.

LEADER

Eh?

VILLAGER #2

Mint Lamb.

JUNIOR CHORUS #1

Nettle Risotto.

JUNIOR CHORUS #2

Garlic prawns.

JUNIOR CHORUS #3

Basil Salad.

LEADER

No! No! No!

GINGER

You said order. So we gave you our orders.

LEADER

Not that order. I meant order as in 'be quiet' order.

ALL

Oh! That order!

LEADER

Order! Order!

Everyone does a shuffling-into-a-line routine which ends with them all going:

ALL

Sssshhh!

LEADER

That's more like it. Now, I the Leader of the Council of Villagers, demand your status reports.

JUNIOR CHORUS #4

The Borage is burned

JUNIOR CHORUS #5

The Fennel's flame-grilled

JUNIOR CHORUS #6

The Saffron's scorched.

GINGER

And we saw what did it.

SORREL

A great big fire-breathing wormy creature frizzling all of our crops.

GINGER

In it breathed.

They both demonstrate

SORREL

Then breathed in some more

And again

GINGER

And then with one blast fried everything in sight.

ALL

Oh no!

SORREL

Oh yes! Everything's ruined. Not a plant left standing in the village.

GINGER

Except in the witch's garden and she won't share.

SORREL

Oh such greed!

ALL

Greedy Weed!

LEADER

Without herbs, without corn, without fruit it'll soon be the end of us all.

GINGER

We'll be proper poor.

SORREL

We'll be proper poorly!

SAGE

You must persuade Ragwort to share her crops.

SORREL

She won't ever do that.

GINGER

They'll grow again next year I suppose.

SORREL

But I must have herbs now to help my baby into this world. And Ragwort's got them all.

Chords of Doom as RAGWORT enters. She carries a beautiful bouquet of fresh herbs

***Music cue 2a
Chords of Doom***

RAGWORT

Did someone call? I'm sorry, I'm a little busy. Mmmmm. Lovely green loveliness. There's so much of it I don't know what to do with it all. Look there's fennel for you, and columbines: there's rue for you; and here's some for me. Only joking! All for me and none for you! And what I don't want I'll ... um ... oh yes ... throw away.

She flings the bouquet to the floor and stamps all over its remains

Oh dearie, dearie me. They fell on the floor and now they're all ruined! Ha! Ha! Ha!

The audience will boo

Oh shut up. It's going to be a very long morning/afternoon/evening if you keep making that noise.

LEADER

I, the Leader of the Council of Villagers, demand that you share your good luck with the rest of us.

RAGWORT

Why should I? Why not tell your Gardener-in-Chief, horrible, hideous, heinous Hyacinth Horseface to do something about it?

GINGER

Sorrel is about to have a baby and she needs herbs to help her.

SORREL

So please could we borrow some?

GINGER

We'll pay you back.

RAGWORT

You will? Well why didn't you say so? Well of course I w... won't share. What's in my garden is mine, mine, all mine!

GINGER

Oh such greed!!

ALL

Greedy Weed!

RAGWORT

Oh please! I'm not staying here to be insulted.

GINGER

Why? Where else are you going to go?!

The whole village laughs

RAGWORT

Do you see me laughing?! No! And neither will you be until I'm Gardener-in-Chief.

Let your plants be fried to death
Let all the crops but mine
Be barbecued by worm's hot breath
For now and for all ... Time!

***Music 2b Witches
Curse***

Ha! Ha! Ha! And we all know that fire-breathing worms once they've scorched a place come back every year for ever and ever and ever until there is nothing left to scorch!

And she starts to go whispering

Oh scorching worm of mine! What a cruel fire-breathing worm you are.

***Worm Telepathy
Cue***

She moves to the exit then stops

Ha! Ha! Ha! Oh dear. Yes, you dear! I thought I should tell you Halloween's over.
You can take your mask off now.

And she goes

SORREL

Oh Ginger! What shall we do?

GINGER

I don't know, Sorrel.

SAGE

Don't give up.

LEADER

But we have nothing.

SAGE

I'm sure yoohoo'll find a way.

Suddenly SORREL gives a loud cry.

GINGER

What is it Sorrel?

She cries again.

What do I do?

The following is sung to the recognisable tune from WICKED

Music 2c. It's coming

SORREL

It's coming

GINGER

Now?

SORREL

My baby's coming!

GINGER

And how!

BOTH

There'll be a nose
There'll be a curl
There'll be a healthy, perfect,
Lovely, little -

The music stops abruptly as SORREL cries again

SORREL

Owww!

GINGER

Oh no what shall I do? She must have herbs!

LEADER

Come all, away. Some look after Sorrel and some see if you can find anything, anything at all, that's survived the worm's fiery breath. Report back tomorrow morning.

And they all go leaving GINGER alone

2d. The Stuff of Life Reprise

GINGER

Herbs are what Sorrell needs
For our baby, dear and tiny
So maybe if I took a few
You'd understand and think of me kindly
My only hope is that the witch is not behind me

Come on Ginger...

GINGER

Herbs are the stuff of life

And he climbs into RAGWORT's garden

